

CORRESPONDENCE

From January to March, 1847,

RELATING TO

THE MEASURES ADOPTED

FOR THE

RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

COMMISSARIAT SERIES.

[SECOND PART.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

1847.

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COMMISSARIAT.

MR. HALY TO MR. TREVELYAN.

*British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in the remote Parishes of Ireland and Scotland.**Committee Room, South Sea House,
January 11, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Committee to forward to you a resolution which was passed at a meeting held here on Saturday last:—

"That Government be requested to authorize the issue of food from the depôts in Ireland in such quantities and to such parties as may be authorized by this Committee to receive and distribute the same, the Association undertaking to replace the quantities issued upon their order within three months."

It will afford me much pleasure to be enabled to lay a favourable reply before the Committee.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

January 20, 1847.

Write to the Committee that, considering how much depends upon the Government stores in the western division of Ireland being preserved from being exhausted, and having regard to the advantage of additional supplies of food being sent to Ireland from every available source, their Lordships are of opinion that it would not be advisable for the Committee to depend, as a general rule, upon the Government depôts; and they would suggest that the Association should, in every practicable case, purchase meal, and other suitable articles of food, and send them to those parts of Ireland which appear to stand most in need of them.

Transmit a copy of this Letter and Minute to Sir R. Routh for his information.

SIR W. COX TO MR. LABOUCHERE.

*23, Lower Mount Street,
Dublin, January 11, 1847.*

COLONEL Sir William Cox presents his compliments to Mr. Labouchere, and, in compliance with his wish, has the honour of sending him the accompanying paper, containing the views of the "Reproductive Works' Committee," respecting the formation of seed depôts by Government in this country.

ENCLOSURE.

THE members of the "Reproductive Works' Committee" who were deputed to wait on Mr. Labouchere on Saturday last, have now, by his desire, the honour of stating more distinctly the views of the Committee respecting the establishment of seed depôts by Government.

The resolution on this subject, proposed by the Committee for the consideration of the general meeting of landed proprietors and members of the Legislature, which is to be held this week in Dublin, is in the following words:—

"That it is an ascertained fact that the supply of seed in this country will be deficient; and to meet this evil, we earnestly recommend that seed depôts be established by Government."

This resolution was merely meant as a suggestion for the consideration of the general meeting, and its details were consequently left undetermined.

The views of the Committee respecting it are these:—That having ascertained, by well

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authenticated reports from many parts of the country, that the small farmers in different localities, from the total failure of their potatoes, and the partial failure of their oat crops, have been, or will be, driven by absolute want to the necessity of consuming the portion of grain usually reserved for cropping their ground in the early part of spring; and that, unless some means be adopted to supply the deficiency thus created, and hopes, in the meantime, held out to them that, in some way or other, seed will be placed within their reach, the people will be driven to despair, and a large extent of land left waste and unutilized, the consequence of which must inevitably be, that there will be a much greater deficiency of food next year than that which unfortunately exists at present.

The plan which the Committee would respectfully recommend to the Government would be this:—That all the Relief Committees throughout the country should be immediately written to, to ask their opinion with respect to the supply of oats and barley now in possession of the small farmers (holding, say, under ten Irish acres of land), within their respective districts; and the probable quantity, in addition to what is likely to be reserved by them for the spring sowing, which will be required to make up the deficiency. That when their reports are received, an estimate should be made of the quantity of each kind of seed required for the supply of that class of farmers in each county; and that then an officer of the Commissariat should be sent to enquire more particularly into the circumstances, and make arrangements for the formation of such depots as may be deemed necessary, and from which the requisite supply of seed should be sold, at the average market price, to every farmer holding less than 10 acres of land, who shall produce a certificate of his necessity from the chairman and secretary of the Relief Committee of his district, and also a guarantee from his landlord, or two sufficient sureties, that the purchase money, if not immediately paid, shall be paid within two years at the furthest, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

It is proposed that this seed should not be given out until the proper time of sowing each particular kind, and until the ground for its reception be properly prepared, which should be certified also (in one and the same certificate) by the Relief Committee; and when given out, that it should be so adulterated as to render it unfit for human food, while its vitality and reproductive powers should be left unimpaired.

Though the Committee have only mentioned barley and oats, as being the principal and most essential, they are most decidedly of opinion that it would be highly desirable also to place peas, beans, mangel-wormel, cabbages, turneps, carrots and parsnip seed within the reach of the small farmers, and thus encourage their more extensive and general cultivation.

In the name of the Deputation,

WILLIAM COX.

"*Reproductive Works' Committee Room,*
No. 18, Dame Street, Dublin, January 11, 1847.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 29, 1847.

Write to Sir William Cox that their Lordships have had before them the document delivered by him to Mr. Labouchere on behalf of the Reproductive Works' Committee, recommending that measures should be adopted by the Government to supply the deficiency of seed which is supposed to exist in different parts of Ireland, and after a careful consideration of the subject, they are satisfied that the difficulties in the way of obtaining, and properly distributing large quantities of seed, and the relaxation of private effort and private economy which must be the consequence of encouraging people to depend upon Government in such a matter, render it unadvisable to interfere in the manner recommended.

State, however, that in order to give some assistance in cases of more than usual destitution, Her Majesty's Government have determined to apply to Parliament for a sum of 50,000*l.* to be issued in loans, repayable after next harvest, to landed proprietors who are unable to assist their tenants in providing seed, and the Lord Lieutenant has been requested to advise this Board under what rules the above-mentioned sum should be appropriated.

Transmit copies of Sir W. Cox's note, its enclosure, and the foregoing Minute, to Sir R. Routh for his information.

Lieut.-Colonel DOUGLAS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Mackin's Hotel, Dublin,
January 16, 1847.

In forwarding to you a statement of the number and extent of the operations of the soup-kitchens in Tipperary county, I have to explain to you, that I entertain hopes, that many others are also established by this time, in conformity with the earnest advice and entreaties which I have ever taken

care to address to the many members of other Committees whom I have met, by previous arrangement, at the several places I have visited.

I doubt not, that in the North Riding there are now, or very soon will be, several more in operation.

I have given you a list of those I know of myself.

I need hardly say, that I am endeavouring to forward this grand mode of relief by every possible means in my power.

You will perceive by the first sheet of my enclosed statement, that I had hoped to have been able to have given you this day a general statement in a tabular form; but I have only this morning received some of the replies to my letters, which I addressed to many Committees at the commencement of the week, in compliance with your wish to receive from me an account of the soup operations in Tipperary, to accompany your Report to the Treasury.

These replies are all in the form of narrative, not of account, and it has been quite impossible for me to continue the tabular statement in which the first few soup-kitchens are treated of.

I will endeavour, however, at some future period, to make a condensed return of all the soup-kitchens I meet with; in order, that you may see, at once, what amount of relief is being afforded in my district, in this shape.

I lament to say, that from almost all quarters, I have received painful accounts of the increasing misery and destitution; and I cannot permit this occasion to pass without expressing, for the information of Her Majesty's Treasury, my most solemn conviction, that if the present system of public labour and non-cultivation of the fields continue one month longer, this country is lost; and I declare, solemnly, that the future prospects of this country under the continuance of such a system are too frightful to contemplate.

ENCLOSURES.

Cahir.

The soup-kitchen of Cahir is under the direction of the Relief Committee. Soup is issued three times a week, at 1d. per quart, (including bread, since the 12th December), to such as are able to pay for it. The gratuitous issues are confined to families having no member employed upon the Public Works, the greater number of these being mechanics and labourers totally unemployed. Since the 30th November last, soup has been sold to 1931 different families; gratuitous issues to 1240 families, making a total of 14,487 individuals. During this period, 1536½ gallons have been issued, at a cost of £49 7 4½

Cash received for sales 14 15 3

Total loss since November 30th £34 12 1½

Thus far I have been able to collect from the Report which I have received from the Secretary of the Cahir Relief Committee.

I believe, that this soup-kitchen has been very well managed.

Fethard.

This establishment was commenced upon the 12th of December last, since which period 4½ gallons have been issued daily. The total expenses since that period, for erection and maintenance, and meal, have been £26 3 9½

Credit by 1484 quarts, at 1½d. } 15 19 11

" 1613 " 1d. }

Total loss January 12th £10 3 8½

The Rev. Thomas Woodward has a separate fund for supplying soup to the poor; and he informed me, that his daily issues were extended to 120 persons. The tickets are purchased by individuals, who give them to the poor, thus enabling the kitchen to support itself nearly.

Templemore.

Soup-kitchen established on the 5th of January. It is issued three times a-week; 1650 tickets were sold in four days of issue, at 1d. each, which are purchased by benevolent individuals, and given to the poor. Soup is also sold to the poor themselves, at one halfpenny the quart, it costs about 1d. per quart.

Subscriptions to the kitchen amount to 56l. 15s., the cost of erection was 7l. The loss to the fund will not exceed 2l. a-week. There are about 300 families receiving relief from this kitchen.

Claghon.

There are 500 individuals daily relieved at the Claghon soup-kitchen; each person receives

daily, one quart of soup and about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread, part of this is sold at 1d. the ration; and 200 quarts of soup and 100 lbs. of bread are issued daily, gratuitously. The estimated loss is about 15*l.* a-week.

Newagh.

The soup-kitchen of Newagh has very extensive operations. The funds of the Relief Committee are aided by daily and weekly collections towards the soup-kitchen. The daily issues are extended to 300 families, amounting to 1200 individuals. About 100 gallons are issued daily, at a cost, including attendance, of 7*l.* a-week. The sales of soup have only recently commenced; but now persons come to the soup-kitchen at 12 o'clock, to purchase soup at one halfpenny per quart.

Cashel.

This soup-kitchen issues about 60 gallons daily, which costs about 1*l.* 3d. per quart. The tickets are sold at 1d. each to the rich, who give them to the poor. None are issued gratuitously by the Relief Committee. It is feared, that this kitchen will be compelled to close from want of funds. I have written to the chairman on the subject of subscriptions to be followed by donations. I am informed that there are about 120 families daily relieved by this soup society, at a loss of 10*l.* a-day.

Tipperary.

There is a soup-kitchen at Tipperary, which has extensive operations. I cannot give the details, because I have received no reply to my demand for information on this head.

Nasport and Bird Hill, Parish of Kilkenny.

There is a soup-kitchen now being established here, and will be in operation in a few days.

Mr. Gring's steward purchases corn of a cheap kind, and disposes of the offal. Vegetables are supplied from this benevolent gentleman's own garden. The Rev. Mr. Hifferman, in a letter received this day, informs me that he has no doubt, that on Wednesday last the soup-kitchen at Bird Hill saved some lives. The pay clerk, who was expected on Tuesday, did not arrive to pay the labourers until late on Wednesday evening, and for these ten days many had no food but soup; and, in some instances, an advance of meal from the Bird Hill depot.

Kilkenny.

There is a soup-kitchen here, and the name of the Rev. Thomas Latouch is a sufficient guarantee for its good management. He is so deeply engaged in the general relief matters of his district, that I am not surprised at his not having sent me an account of the operations of his Relief Committee in the matter of the soup-kitchen.

I cannot conscientiously allow any official opportunity to pass, without expressing my respect for, and admiration of, this benevolent, excellent clergyman, a poor curate with ten children, contending almost unaided against a mass of misery which demands the personal co-operation, and the highest sacrifices from all who are possessed of property in this district.

R. P. DOUGLAS, *Lieut.-Col.*

STATEMENT of the NUMBER of SOUP-KITCHENS established in the County of TYNSDALE by the Relief Committee which have as yet been visited by Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. DOUGLAS, employed upon Particular Service in IJLAND; also giving the Operations of Local Soup Societies not under the direction of Relief Committees.

Place.	By Tickets, Quarts Daily.	For Cash, Quarts Daily.	Total Quarts Daily.	Cash by Sales.	Expenses of Kitchens.	Lent.	REMARKS.
Charnel	255	405½	661½	£. s. d. 1 15 7½	£. s. d. 4 11 1½	£. s. d. 9 15 9½	This is a local charity set under the Relief Committee. Their funds now amount to 2050. The society does no more than to supply the tickets. The tickets are sold to the public, and it is supposed that all who bring tickets have received them gratuitously. The society give four ounces of bread and one quart of soup for 1d., which covers the society, all charges included, 1½d. the value. The Relief Committee purpose to employ the destitute children in making shirts, stockings, &c., and to give a certain quantity of soap and bread, through the agency of the soup-kitchen, to those destitute persons who will clean their houses and linen.
Thurston	.	The highest average any yet has been 70	70	0 4 10	Not given	Not given.	The kitchen is only just established, and it has not yet taken with the people. It is the intention of the Committee to give one pound of bread with each quart of soup. As far as I can collect, the soup is to be sold at 1d. per quart. The gratuitous donors of soap and bread will, of course, be confined to the ticketless and infirm, who have no other means of support, for it is stated to me, that almost all large families have now two members employed upon the Public Works.
Rosseton	310 and 1½d loaf to each pint of soup.	Not given, but some is sold for cash.	360	9 10 0	Not given.	Not given.	The kitchen is only now commenced. Most soap has been abandoned, and a sort of third soup is sold. To each pint is added a penny loaf. The change of this recipe is 1d. Thus the soap is gratuitous. The tickets are purchased by ticketless individuals, who distribute them among the poor. It has been decided by the Committee, to discontinue giving soap tickets to the ticketless, infirm, &c., to form as a gratuitous list of the most destitute in the town and vicinity commencing with the sick, widows, aged and orphan, and to give one ration a day per pint to the ticketless. The receipt is, at this time, confined to male, weakly children under 16 years of age, and to the ticketless, who are to be entitled to more 1000 each ration daily. The Committee have 100,000 from the Government. They have received a donation of 2000, from an English lady, and 500, from Colonel D. Daines.
Townsville	On the point of being opened.		.	.	.	.	The Relief Committee have 500, subscription, with the Government donation, making 400, to which they have received the additional aid of 100, and a loan from the Irish Relief Association.

N.B. In explanation of the small subscription here, I beg to call attention to my Report, No. 26, of December 14th.

Sir R. ROUTE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 16, 1847.

I observe what you say about the extension of my permission to draw on the funds of the British Relief Association, and I think the power of doing so in some very distressed cases would have the best effect, and certainly I shall not recur to it except on great and extraordinary occasions.

I have done so in the case of Kiltcealy, and I propose doing so in the case of the Arran Islands opposite Galway.

The Lord Lieutenant informed me yesterday that he had still 200*l.* of a sum forwarded to him for this purpose from, I think, the Duke of Leeds, and he consented to appropriate 100*l.* to Swineford, county of Mayo, which is in great distress, and the Union Poor House nearly without credit; and I hope to induce him to give a similar sum to Crossmolina, county of Mayo, which is also suffering severely, so that I may establish soup kitchens in each of those towns. I must now look to Donegal.

I send you an extract of a letter from Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, and copy of another from Captain Voules. They are cases which must carry with them great interest, and shows you a beginning of all my fears for Donegal. All that barony of Tyrawley and Erris must also be relieved shortly. Mr. Bishop at Belmullet is very assiduous, and he is using all exertion on his side of Erris, but I want to see something done about Crossmolina and Foxford.

I have just seen the principal gentleman from Cong (Mr. Lambert) who is agent to all the large properties in that neighbourhood. He mentioned that Colonel Knox, who owns a large part of Ballinrobe, had offered 50*l.* upon every 50*l.* that could be collected there; but he could not succeed in raising more than 25*l.*; and in the meanwhile the worst part of the town, which is church property, is in a sad state of destitution. The depot at Cong will be very central.

Captain Hastings is gone to relieve Colonel Archer, in charge of Westmeath and Meath; Captain Dent is gone to Longford and Leitrim; and Captain Haynes to King's and Queen's Counties. Captain Drury arrived to-day, and goes on Monday to Kerry, proceeding at once to Skibbereen to assist Mr. Bishop, and learn from him the plans he is establishing.

Captain Fishbourne also left yesterday for Clare.

ENCLOSURE.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Sir R. ROUTE.

Sligo, January 14, 1847.

Mr. VOULES' letter, herewith enclosed for your perusal, will satisfy you, that he is using every exertion to carry out your instructions; but however invaluable relief by means of soup kitchens will prove in communities, I fear it will not be made to reach the people scattered over the rural districts and isolated localities. There are many places where none of the materials for the boiler can be procured, and others where much time is necessary to collect and collect contributions from the reluctant and distant proprietors. The Sligo list has been delayed solely by the desire of swelling the amount to be submitted, and will, I hope, be forwarded by this day's post. As to our own exertions, would to God we might now be empowered to bring them into more extended action, for I cannot help representing to you in the strongest manner my conviction, that if there be no immediate extensive prandial employment afforded throughout the country, no great reduction of these famine prices, and no intermediate cheap food available for the poor between meal, now touching 20*l.*, and sea weed, (which is already the case in many localities, and will soon be universally so, when the few remaining turnips and cabbages are exhausted) a very great portion of the pauper population, now fast comprising artisans, tradesmen, room-keepers, &c. must die of starvation; the distress and destitution seems almost beyond the reach of human relief.

My sub-accountants have orders to comply with the applications from the Committees; but in Donegal our sales are small, and the inference is that there is no money to purchase.

Srs,

Ballina, January 11, 1847.

ADVISING to the circular letter from the Commissary-General, dated 22nd December, requesting information as to the health of the district, I think it right to make the following general report, and have been careful that the sources from which it has been obtained may be relied on.

In the Union poor-house, built for the accommodation of 1,300 paupers, the average number of inmates was, in October, 1,141; the number of deaths, 20. In November, 1,209

lunatics; 45 deaths. In December, 1,273 lunatics; 114 deaths. In the Swineford poor-house, built to contain 700, they have had 44 deaths since the 1st of October, but this cannot be considered a fair test of the general health of the district, as not only are the aged and infirm congregated in great numbers within the walls (some upwards of 90 and even 100 years of age, and on them the sudden and total change of diet, would be likely to produce the most disastrous effects), but great numbers are taken to the poor-house in a dying state, in order to save the expenses of internment. This practice is so common that many die a few hours after they are admitted.

I learn from a medical man, who visits the dispensaries and fever hospital, that, although sickness is somewhat more prevalent than in ordinary seasons, fever does not exist to any great extent. Certainly not more than at the corresponding period last year. Dysentery is the prevalent disorder. This is to be attributed to several causes. "Insufficiency of food," "The sudden and total change of diet." "Not sufficiently boiling the meal when it of course swells and irritates the stomach." "Subsisting on food which does not possess sufficient nutriment, or is otherwise unwholesome."

Turnips, for the last six weeks or two months, have been the only food within reach of a vast number; and were meal only half the present price, they have not the means of purchasing it. The cry for increased employment reaches me from all quarters. The supply of turnips being now nearly exhausted, some further effort is immediately required to furnish them with the means of purchasing meal. I have urged the several Relief Committees to establish soup shops, as suggested by the Commissary-General and yourself, and confidently hope to see this carried out in some ports; but in other places it is impossible, where we have a vast extent of poor land with no resident landlord, or means of raising a subscription, and where, even if they had the funds, the parish is so extensive and straggling, that they have no place for the distribution, or person to undertake the management. The only way to meet this difficulty is by affording employment to the people on or near their own townland. I hear from Crossmolina, that "the turnips are almost all consumed; and if some relief is not immediately given in the shape of work, one-half must die from starvation. At present there are not 100 men employed on Public Works in that neighbourhood, although reproductive works to a considerable extent were presented for at the last extraordinary sessions." From Foxford and Ballycastle, I have accounts, if possible, more serious. They represent the people as "enfeebled by hunger; and great fears are entertained that they will be too weak to earn any thing by task-work when employment is offered." At Foxford, they are raising a subscription, and I hope to see a soup shop established immediately. At Killybegs, the Committee are selling meal at a reduced rate (1s. 6d. per stone), and Mr. Bourke, the Chairman, is giving employment to several destitute females in spinning and weaving flax; and is endeavouring, by a subscription, to extend this employment. At Ballina, the poor-house is full, and we distribute soup five days in the week to upwards of 1,200 souls, old and infirm, widows and orphans, who are wholly destitute of any other means of subsistence. Mr. Foster and Mr. Pym (from the Society of Friends), who visited this town a short time since have offered a ton of meal weekly for gratuitous distribution in the neighbourhood. They also gave 5s. and 10s. to three or four private individuals who are distributing soup. The poor-house both here and at Swineford is much in debt, and they have very great difficulty in obtaining food for the inmates. At Swineford the baker and other tradesmen have refused to supply them, and meal has been sent from this town.

Added to all this, I see no tillage, nor any preparation whatever, throughout the country, for cropping the ground in the spring.

I have, &c.

HENRY P. VOULES.

Deputy Commissary-General Dobree.

MR. WARD TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, January 18, 1847.

In reply to your letter of this day, enclosing a letter from the British Relief Association, and conveying the wish of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that provisions, &c., sent to Cork, should be received into the Government stores at Haulbowline, and that assistance should be given to them in unloading and distributing the same, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that a copy of your letter has been sent to Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot for his information and guidance, and that every exertions are being made, orders to this effect having been already sent to the Rear-Admiral.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 19, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter to the Chairman of the Association, for the information of the Committee.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, January 20, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter dated the 17th instant, from Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, reporting the orders which he has given for affording assistance to the British Relief Association in every way in his power.

ENCLOSURE.

Rear-Admiral Sir HUGH PIGOT to Mr. WARD.

"Myræidon," at Cork, January 17, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., conveying the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to consider for the present the British Association for the Relief of extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland, as identical with the Government in its operations, and to furnish the Committee with every assistance at my command, and I request you will be pleased to report to their Lordships that their instructions shall be most fully attended to.

I have given directions to furnish storehouse-room at Haulbowline, and issued orders to the commanding officers of Her Majesty's ships under my command, stationed on the coast, to afford every attention and assistance to the accredited agents or officers of the Association, and by this post I have put myself in communication with the Committee in London.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 22, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter and enclosure to the Chairman of the Association, for the information of the Committee.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 18, 1847.

I FORWARD the annexed report from Assistant Commissary-General Adams, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

ENCLOSURE.

Assistant Commissary-General ADAMS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Wexford, January 14, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in obedience to your Instructions of the 5th instant, I visited Cong, a village at the head of Lough Corrib, by Kilmaine.

1. Its locality is well adapted for a central depot in this section of the county.

2. There are two mills, at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from the landing place on the lake. Each mill has three tier of stores, and could grind six to ten tons of grain in 24 hours.

A third mill is being repaired and enlarged with five tier of stores, but will not be in working order for some time.

3. I transmit tenders from—

No. 1. Patrick Moran;

No. 2. John Prondergast.

The first I consider to be the most advantageous, from the defensible situation of the building, and the accommodation which it affords. The flats are about 45 by 16 feet.

Both parties were at first unreasonable in the rate of storage, but on impressing upon them the object of Government, should it be deemed expedient to establish a depot at Cong, they abated very much their demands.

4. These mills are nearly equi-distant, about five Irish miles from Ballinrobe and Kilmaine, with good roads, and 25 miles from Galway, by the Lake Corrib, which is navigable by boats carrying about five to seven tons. The charge for freight is about 3s. 6d. per ton; and a cart will convey about 10 tons per diem from the landing to the mills for 2s. 6d. and 3s.

5. Military Protection:—There is a building convenient to the mills, occupied at present by 15 or 16 men of the revenue police, which would accommodate, as I understand it has before, half a company; and the former could probably be removed elsewhere on application to Colonel McLaughlin. I could not hear of any other building suited for the purpose. An old mansion, on the opposite side of the lake, a short distance only—"Ashfield," which Mr.

Lambert of Ballinrobe offered without charge, is very inconveniently situated, and at times difficult of access, and therefore not suitable. A guard-house is provided in the office of the mills.

There are six men of the constabulary force stationed at Cong.

Although the inhabitants in the immediate neighbourhood are represented to be peaceable and well-disposed, I am of opinion that a depot in the village would not be safe without military protection.

At Ballinrobe there is a company of the 49th, and a troop of the 7th Hussars.

6. I have no hesitation, from the information I have been able to collect, in stating that the surrounding country is in such an alarming state of destitution, as to render it exceedingly desirable that a depot should be established at Cong.

7. Indian corn had been obtained from Galway by the "William Moran," at 17l. 10s. per ton, and he was selling it at 20s. per cwt., but the supply was very small. Five tons introduced by the Relief Committee had been nearly all disposed of at 2s. 6d. per stone; the Rev. Mr. Moore intended to procure a further quantity, and was in expectation of soon receiving a boiler from Dublin to establish a soup kitchen.

Importations cannot, however, be made at present without the protection of an escort. Of the cases above alluded to, the supplies were attacked in the latter by a number of persons in boats, upon whom the police were obliged to fire.

At Ballinrobe a soup kitchen was about being established by private subscription.

8. Workhouse at Ballinrobe, 2nd class, for 800, but would contain 1200.

I visited this establishment yesterday; it had about 720 inmates. Upwards of 100 had very recently been refused admittance in a body, and a number were thronging the doors for entrance. The poor creatures who are inmates cannot be furnished with clothing, and are huddled together in the internal rags in which they were admitted; nor are there more than about 150 beds.

The present collector of the poor rates is actively engaged in endeavouring to collect the cess due; but he assured me that he had been unable to obtain the rates from some of the most respectable landed proprietors, on the estate of one of which cattle had been poisoned, and in numerous cases the parties were altogether unable to pay; and that from want of funds—and credit could not be obtained—the establishment could not be kept up more than three weeks at the outside, when the poor must be turned out.

There did not appear to be any unusual number of sick, but fears were entertained that an epidemic might break out.

9. Subscriptions in aid of the funds of Relief Committees, I deeply regret, are not forthcoming with the spirit of liberality which the extreme destitution imperatively demands. In instances in which the wealthy would contribute what they conceive to be a liberal sum, the amount is considered to be inadequate to the income derived from their estates, and therefore some respectable and influential persons of smaller means decline putting down their names; and I greatly fear the condition "that the poor house must be full" will, in most cases, prove an insurmountable obstacle to the Committee obtaining the proposed donation of Government.

I have been several times asked the question, "If subscriptions collected elsewhere, and paid over to the relief fund, would be admitted on the list as local subscriptions?" to which I see no objection, but submit the same for decision. In cases where the amount is large, the subject may require special consideration.

In conclusion, I trust that a better and more cordial understanding will soon prevail between the parties upon which such great responsibility rests, and that union of action will be established for the prompt relief of the appalling misery and destitution which is rapidly increasing.

MR. HALY to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

*Committee Room, South Sea House,
January 19, 1847.*

I HAVE this day had the honour of laying the extract of a letter from Commissary-General Sir Randolph Routh, which you transmitted to Mr. Kingscote, together with your reply thereto, before the Committee.

The Committee desire me to express to you their perfect concurrence in your view of the arrangements between them and Sir Randolph Routh.

TREASURY MINUTE.

January 19, 1847.

WRITE to the Secretary of the Ordnance, that my Lords have reason to believe that a quantity of salt pork provided for army service in Ireland, and no longer required for that service, is deposited in the Ordnance storehouses in Ireland, and the Secretary will move the Master-General and Board to direct that the pork in question may be delivered over to Sir R. Routh upon his requisition, to be applied to relief purposes under their Lordships' orders.

Acquaint Sir R. Routh with the above direction, and desire that he will make arrangements for the conveyance to Cork, either by public or private freight, of the salt pork which may be delivered to him by the Ordnance department, consigned to Captain Harston, R.N. the agent at that port of the British Association for the Relief of Irish Distress.

In the event of its being necessary to pay freight for the conveyance of this supply, Sir R. Routh will include the charge in his public accounts, taking care that it is supported by the usual documents.

He will state for their Lordships' information the price which, in his opinion, it will be proper to affix to this pork, with reference to the time it has been in store, and its present condition.

Acquaint the Chairman of the British Association with the above direction.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

January 20, 1847.

I SEND herewith a copy of a Report from a Sub-Inspector of Police, relating to the melancholy state of Swineford and its neighbourhood, and two extracts from answers to a set of queries which the Protestant Bishop of Tuam circulated on the 24th ultimo to his clergy.

I shall be obliged to you to inform me what the orders were, under which the officers in charge of the depôts referred to were acting, and what the circumstances were, as far as you are acquainted with them, which prevented sales from taking place, supposing the depôts to have been open for sales at that time.

I shall also be obliged to you to inform me what measures have been taken for the relief of the starving multitudes in the Swineford Union.

It can hardly be necessary to repeat that we are most anxious that you should push out and urge forward the system on which we are acting, of exhorting the local Committees to exert themselves, and supporting their efforts by liberal donations.

ENCLOSURE.

Sub-Inspector HUNT to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

County Mayo, Swineford, January 7, 1847.

I beg to call your most special attention to the sad state of destitution existing in this district. I was this day engaged with Captain Stirling, Inspecting Field-Officer of the Board of Works, arranging some misunderstanding amongst the persons employed on one of the Public Works from Coleman to Clonsilla, on which road 100 persons are employed, but the number of starving, half-died people who entreated that they also might get employment, exceeds even my own personal knowledge of the starving mass of people in this district. You would be horrified, could you only see the multitude of starving men, women and children, who daily and hourly swarm the town, soliciting with prayers and tears one meal of food. What I would beg to impress truly and without the slightest exaggeration on your mind is, that money is almost useless; there is not a sufficiency of food, even of the coarsest quality, to support animal life in my district for one month. I most respectfully entreat that you will use your high influence from your public position, to have food sent immediately to the very peaceable orderly

people of this district, who though furnishing for want of food, up to this period have observed the rights of property (food) with the strictest honesty and forbearance.

I attended the meeting of the Poor Law Guardians yesterday, and regret to inform you that, but for the humane conduct of the chairman, deputy-chairman and vice-chairman in undertaking out of their own private finances to supply the paupers (715) with food, there was not one single pound of oatmeal to feed them for the current week; the markets are gone beyond the reach of the people who were once comfortable, the supply is getting shorter daily, and if the oats (their sole resource) now in the district, were converted into meal, one month would consume the entire. No preparation is made or making for the ensuing spring; the people appear to be paralyzed from starvation; they tell me they must use their little seed for food, and when that is used, they say, "We must lie down and die." They have no internal resources, no manufactories, no mills, no resident landlords to provide them with seed. I again most respectfully beg your earnest and humane consideration to the true and unbiased statement I make on behalf of the famishing people of this district.

The market prices yesterday, the 5th instant, were as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Potatoes			None
Oatmeal per cwt.	1	11	3
Rice			None
Turnips per ton	1	0	0
Milk very scarce			4½ per quart

REVEREND SIR,

Tham, December 24, 1846.

THE Lord Bishop will feel obliged by your replying to the accompanying queries as accurately as in your power, and returning them to me, under cover, at your earliest convenience.

(Signed)

B. J. CLARKE.

To the Rev. ————

Query 3rd.—State whether any dépôt has been established by the Government (or others) for the sale of provisions in your district.

The Rev. M. A. Foster's Return.—Orney and Baddisford.

Query 3rd.—There is a Government dépôt at Clifden, but the provisions (meal or biscuit) are sold very sparingly, seldom more than a quarter of a stone at a time to the largest family, and that only on certain days in the week.

The Clifden Relief Committee, whenever they have funds in their hands, endeavour to procure provisions, and sell them out at a moderate price to the poor.

The Rev. J. Stock's Return.—Kilconnor.

Query 3rd.—A dépôt has been formed some time since by Government, but no provisions from thence have as yet been disposed of by sale or otherwise, although the people are starving around; and if it were not for the aid of private charity, the worst consequences of famine, social and physical, might be apprehended.

Belmullet for all practical purposes would be the most convenient for the general distribution of food.

MR. BOYLE TO LIEUT.-COLONEL JONES.

Arklow, January 20, 1847.

IN obedience to your orders of the date of the 16th ult. (which I have this day had the honour to receive), that I should report to you personally on the subject of the scarcity of food at Tinahely, referred to by Lieut. Anderson, in his letter to the Secretary, on the 31st ult., I have the honour to report that the statement of Lieut. Anderson is, to my knowledge, substantially correct and that it is equally applicable to the present state of Tinahely.

C 2

The subject of food is one that, had it not engaged my attention, must have been forced on my notice by a variety of circumstances particularly bearing on the engineer department, as, in consequence of its dearth and high price, the physical strength of the labourer is daily being reduced, and my estimates are as gradually becoming valueless.

On the 16th ult. I personally inspected the shops at Tinahely. I found that there was not in the town more than three tons of meal of all descriptions; that no individuals held more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ or 6 cwt., and that the aggregate was owned by about 16 parties. I further ascertained that on several occasions the quantity of food in Tinahely had been much less.

Yet this town is the capital of a great barony, including some of the wildest and poorest glens and districts to be found in the county, with a population of 15,491 souls, of whom 1520, being very nearly one-tenth, are this day employed on Relief Works; and on Tinahely the great bulk of the population depend for their necessities, for as credit had become limited both to the huckster and the peasant, many of the little wayside shops have been discontinued, and the demand for provisions more and more concentrated in the towns and villages.

For its supplies Tinahely depends on Carlow and Enniscorthy, respectively 19 and 24 miles distant; but on these towns also depend Baltinglass, Arklow, and the south and south-west of the county of Wicklow. The miserable district and town of Hacketstown in a great measure depend on Tinahely; so that, in the case of a heavy fall of snow sufficiently deep to interrupt traffic and the supplies from Carlow and Enniscorthy, the consequence to the inhabitants of the districts around Tinahely, and of those dependent on it for their necessities, must be awful.

So perfectly aware have I been of the limited quantity of food at any period for sale at Tinahely, that I have made it a point to vary the nights of payment to out-labourers, lest by a large number of them at once seeking for provisions for the ensuing week the quantity for sale might be exhausted, and a panic, succeeded by pillage, ensue.

As but a small proportion of the barony has grown grain, and as the farms are much below the average extent, no dependance can be placed on the resources of the farmers as to food. With one trifling exception, the mills are very small; there are not any grain or provision merchants in the barony, nor are there any neighbouring towns or ports from whence food could, in the event of a greater scarcity, be thrown into the district. How much more fearful must be the greater delays consequent on a fall of snow.

Tinahely cannot hold out even in supplying the existing number of destitute.

For the rapidly increasing numbers it must soon grow quite unequal, for in no barony in this county is distress making such rapid strides.

I cannot forbear from suggesting the establishment of three depôts of food in Wicklow, viz., at Arklow, Tinahely, and Baltinglass, or even two, say one at Arklow, where there are good barracks for 120 men, and in which meal or grain might be securely stored; from thence Tinahely, 13 miles (Irish) distant, might be provided against, and saved from famine.

I beg to refer to my reports on this same district, and on the same subject, of the 17th ult., and to state that I have felt it to be my duty to make myself as thoroughly as possible acquainted with the resources of my district.

Assistant Commissary-General BUNCE to Sir R. ROYD.

Skibbereen, January 22, 1847.

Numerous applications having been made to me from soup committees in various parts of the county of Cork, detailing the distress in their respective neighbourhoods, the difficulties they have to encounter in keeping up a fund to support their establishment, and soliciting to be informed whether the Government would meet the local subscriptions raised for this purpose by a donation of pound for pound, as in the western parts of the country.

I have the honour to request you will be pleased to acquaint me whether

such list of subscriptions may be entertained as a general principle throughout the county of Cork.

The following is a copy of the "condition" which I have submitted to soup committees, receiving Government donation in aid of their local subscriptions.

"The soup provided by Committee to be sold to the poor whenever it is practicable.

"Gratuitous distribution of soup to be confined to cases of extreme destitution."

"A debtor and creditor account of the soup fund to be kept; and an account of the number of persons daily relieved by the soup committees, whether by sale or otherwise.

"These accounts to be subject to the examination of the Government inspecting officers."

Sir R. ROUTH to Assistant Commissary-General Bishop.

January 26, 1847.

ENCLOSED is the Circular from the Relief Office of the 20th inst., which will answer all your queries.

The same rule, in respect of donations, applies to all Ireland.

ENCLOSURE.

CIRCULAR.

AUGMENTED *ratio* of DONATIONS ON SUBSCRIPTIONS for affording gratuitous Relief, and providing Food for sale, at first cost, &c.

To the Secretary of each Relief Committee in Ireland.

Commissariat Relief Office, Dublin Castle,
January 20, 1847.

Sir,

COMMISSARY-GENERAL SIR R. J. ROUTH desires to state, that in consequence of the distress prevailing in districts where the union workhouses are full or unavailable, His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant has authorized the recommendation of grants in an augmented ratio on subscriptions; having reference to the extent of destitution in each district.

Where much distress exists, the grants will be equal to the subscriptions. In some cases, a greater amount will be recommended.

Under the circumstances adverted to in the first paragraph, the Government regulations allow of gratuitous issues to the infirm poor, to widows, orphans, and children, where the supporting member of the family is incapable, from sickness or other cause, to maintain them.

To persons requiring relief on such grounds, the food is a free gift of charity; but when the Committee sell, it is not desirable to do so under cost price, for it is an object to maintain the funds of the Committee as unimpaired as possible, so as to make them applicable to the whole season.

Donations granted before the present regulation was made, cannot now be enlarged; but the lower ratio of such grants will be considered whenever lists of additional subscriptions shall be received from the same relief districts.

Subscriptions and donations in aid of them may be appropriated, where a distinction is necessary, to localities for which the sums subscribed shall have been intended by the contributors; but must still be managed by the Committee, or a Sub-Committee of its members. It is particularly requested that the certificate required by the 27th Article of the General Instructions may be affixed to each subscription list.

Grants are only given on subscriptions placed at the disposal of Relief Committees appointed by the lieutenants of counties, in the manner pointed out by the Instructions of Government, issued through this office.

Where such Committees do not exist, application may be made to the Lieutenant of the county to form them, when necessary.

The food considered to be best suited for gratuitous relief is soup. This should also be provided for sale, where practicable, with a view of economising the consumption of corn.

Inquiries being frequently made as to the payment of salaries to the secretaries of Relief Committees, this opportunity is made available for recommending, that in future a member of the Committee be requested to act as secretary, and that a clerk be employed occasionally as required, and paid out of the Relief Fund.

When secretaries have been already employed in expectation of receiving salaries, these can

only be paid where Relief Funds have been formed, there being no other source from which the expenses incurred by Committees can be defrayed.

I have, &c.,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TEEVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 23, 1847.

I HAVE your letter before me in regard to the soup kitchens, and your wish to know their number, and I very much regret that it will not be in my power to satisfy you on this point, at all events at present.

A great number of these establishments took place immediately following the publication of the pamphlet on cheap food, and as everything in Ireland, when once adopted, spreads and expands itself throughout the whole country, most of the Committees where the space occupied by the population was sufficiently contracted to admit of it, have seized the idea, and acted upon it.

It is only now, by means of a circular, or through the constabulary, that I could possibly obtain this information.

I enclose to you a letter from the mayor of Cork, to give you an idea of its extent in that city; and there is no doubt that it will be adopted everywhere, except in certain rural districts, where the inhabitants are too much scattered.

The working men usually get a quart of soup when they go to their work, and the same on their return, at the cost of one penny each, or sometimes a little more.

I am preparing a return which will show the weekly issues from each dépôt, as well as the remains.

We have been expecting the "Avenger" at Sligo, but she has not appeared, and the dépôt there is getting very low, and we have a heavy demand there. I should be very glad if you could send to that district two large-sized steamers, with 500 tons each, either of Indian corn or barley meal, or peas, or anything in fact to eat. They could be consigned to Killibegs, where there is scarcely anything left.

The salt meat and biscuit per "Lively" are gone on to Limerick, where there should be such a dépôt for the use of the troops; and there should be a certain quantity at Dublin and Athlone; but Limerick is the principal place.

I make due note of what you say regarding the Lord Lieutenant, whose orders will meet with all due attention.

The Union houses will be soon upon us. I am to get an order to-night to supply the workhouse at Glenties, County Donegal.

I have an application from the Irish Society, of 26, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall, making use of your name, to have the same facilities as those conceded to the British Relief Association, of making remittances through us, in the hope that we will add to the amount. I shall in the first place refer them to you for orders, but in the meanwhile offer such services as I am able to render.

The Swineford Committee have sent down a subscription of 22*l.*, and with the 50*l.* of the Lord Lieutenant, making 72*l.*, and I have given them a grant of 75*l.* This is enough to set up two soup kitchens.

The subscriptions will be very large, and the donations very heavy.

I have just received a note from the Under Secretary, not to allow the workhouses at Glenties and Skibbereen to close for want of food, and on Wednesday he will furnish me with the official authority.

Pray turn in your mind the best way of meeting this service. I think it should be all done in one way; and as the food could not be supplied generally throughout Ireland, it appears to me better that it should be in money. The application for food might be made on very inconvenient occasions.

I observe your enclosures about Swineford and Belmullet. There were merchants selling at Belmullet at the time, as indeed the statement admits; and when that is the case, we do not interfere, whilst the merchant can supply the demand.

When those sales ceased, Mr. Bishop commenced his; but the people will only buy stones and half stones, and the Committee refuse any intermediate action between the Government and the people; the merchants are, from the plunder, afraid to import, and Mr. Bishop has thus a difficult part to play.

Except Belmullet, it is almost entirely a rural district, with a scattered dense population, very poor, and the land bad.

With respect to Swineford, neither this year nor last year have they done much for themselves, or made any exertion. The depôt at Ballina is reasonably well supplied, and open to them, at a distance, as I think, of 12 or 14 miles. The Committee have now 150*l.*; 22*l.* raised by themselves.

When I obtain a large supply for the Sligo district, I shall replenish the Ballina depôt, and avail myself of Mr. Adams's exertions, who is now in that part of the district, to excite some activity amongst the Committees, and, if possible, to promote some order in their arrangements. County Mayo is remarkable for more poverty, and less resistance to it, than any other part of Ireland.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. HACKETT to MR. REDINGTON.

Cork, January 15, 1847.

UNDERSTANDING that Government has determined to give money in aid of subscriptions for establishing soup depôts in various districts of Ireland, I am directed by the General Soup Relief Committee to submit to you the claims of this city for a fair proportion of any sum that may be allocated for such purpose.

Up to this date there has been received for the four district soup depôts a sum, in donations, of 1800*l.*, and subscriptions of 1000*l.* per month.

The quantity of soup distributed daily amounts to 7000 quarts, each quart nearly sufficient for the support of individual life for 24 hours. But this quantity is by no means sufficient. It would require at least a daily distribution of 20,000 quarts to give even a modicum of relief to the extreme misery existing here; for, in addition to our always numerous poor, we have had, for months past, an influx of the *destitute* from all parts of the large county.

May I beg you will call his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's early attention to this important subject, as an early answer would be necessary to enable the Committee to make arrangements for the increased supply.

SIR R. ROOTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, January 21, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a Report from Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Bishop, at Belmullet, communicating the particulars of the plunder of a vessel, laden with 170 tons of meal, &c., coming into Blacksod Bay.

I also submit herewith, extract of a further letter from Mr. Bishop, mentioning that a similar attack was made on another vessel entering the same bay.

ENCLOSURES.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Bishop to SIR R. ROOTH.

Belmullet, January 18, 1847.

IT is my duty to acquaint you of some acts of violence committed by the people of this part of the country, not on the Government property, but on the merchant shipping and cargoes.

In consequence of a wreck that has occurred in the channel at Blacksod Bay, the Police and Coast Guard force stationed in this district, are employed in protecting and landing the cargo thereof, which the people have made various attempts to plunder; but last night a schooner came into Blacksod Bay, and before the pilot could leave the vessel, upwards of 20 boats came alongside, the men jumped on board, tore open the hatches, and threw the cargo indiscriminately over the side into their own boats.

This information reached us in about one hour after the occurrence through the pilot, who slipped over the stern of the vessel, and though chased by the people got away in his boat, and ran the whole distance (about six miles into Belmullet) in an almost incredible short space of time.

In the absence of the constabulary and Coast Guard (with the exception of two men of the Coast Guard), the inspecting-lieutenant of the latter force found it necessary to demand the assistance of the military, and fearing that the vessel might be consigned to me, or to some other officer of the Commissariat on the coast, I felt that I should be only doing my duty if I marched with the troops, to render every assistance in my power in the management and arrangement, to protect the Government supplies.

There being no magistrate, the troops and Coast Guard were accompanied by the head-constable.

We arrived at the scene of plunder at a little before 11 o'clock at night, though we had previously searched some houses along the coast, and found them to contain in some, two and three sacks of flour.

Several boats were still round the vessel, the crews of which were busily engaged in their work of plunder, and deliberately discharging the cargo; while men, women, and children were waiting on the shore to receive it, and convey it to their homes.

Two of the troops, two of the Coast Guard, and the commanding officer of each speedily got on board, and thus ended this third marauding expedition.

The captain states, that his freight consisted of 170 tons of meal, &c., of which he considers he has lost about 70 tons.

From 12 to 18 prisoners have been taken, and about a ton of the cargo, found in the houses, has been brought in.

Now that they have commenced to plunder, not a vessel coming into so very extensive a bay as Blacksod will be safe, and connected with these unhappy circumstances, there are one or two points I would strongly urge upon those in authority who have the means of carrying them out, and which I think would be effectual in putting a stop to these depredations.

The originators of these plundering expeditions are not persons starving, or in want; but they easily get others who are in want to follow in their footsteps.

The points I allude to are these:—

1st. There appears to be a great difficulty in obtaining the services of a magistrate in Belmullet on an emergency.

2nd. Every vessel carrying Government supplies to this part of the country should, by the terms of their Charter party, be compelled to carry certain guns or arms; for, if a vessel arrived to-morrow consigned to me, and were obliged from the effects of the tide to drop anchor in Blacksod Bay, in the absence of the Coast Guard on a special service, as is now the case, she would meet with the same fate as the vessel of last night.

3rd. That in the present state of this part of the country, it is essentially necessary that a Revenue cutter should be stationed in the Belmullet district, or some other armed vessel.

I returned to Belmullet at 5 o'clock this morning, having been up the whole night.

The vessel in question is the "Glasgow" of Dumfries, bound to Limerick, and had the troops and Coast Guard been one hour later, I am satisfied that the vessel would have been entirely cleared of her cargo.

EXTRACT of LETTER from Deputy Assistant Commissary-General BRIDGE, dated
January 10, 1847.

I may add, that another vessel entered Blacksod Bay last evening, and was immediately attacked, but the cargo turning out only to be salt, she was not further molested.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 22, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter and enclosure to the Secretary to the Admiralty, and request that he will move the Lords Commissioners to give directions for Naval protection to be afforded to merchant-vessels, in the quarter where these outrages have taken place.

Acquaint Sir R. Routh.

Mr. HALY to Mr. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

*Committee Room, South Sea House,
January 21, 1847.*

I AM desired by the Committee to request that you will be good enough to furnish them with a list of the Government depôts in Ireland, at your earliest convenience, and also, if in your possession, that you will, at the same time, forward them a list of the Relief Districts.

I am at the same time desired to request that the Treasury should issue an order, empowering the Committee to deposit goods in any of their stores.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 22, 1847.

Write to the Chairman that depôts have been established by the Government in Ireland at the following places:—

County Donegal.	County Clare.
Dunfinaghy.	Kilfrash, and
Bunbeg, Gwidore Bay.	Clare Castle.
Burton Post.	County Limerick.
Killibegs, where there is also a floating depôt, and both in con- nection with the mills at Mount Charles.	Limerick.
County Sligo.	Tarbert "Madagascar" floating depôt.
Sligo.	County Kerry.
County Mayo.	Dingle.
Ballina.	Cahiriveeu.
Belmullet.	County Cork.
Achill Island, with two depôts.	Castletown (Berehaven).
Westport.	Long Island.
Clare Island.	Skibbereen.
Cong.	Dublin entrepôt for supplying—
County Galway.	Banagher and
Clifden.	Longford-on-the-Shannon.
Galway.	With sub-depôts at
	Castlerea,
	Roscommon, and
	Strokeston.

State that the Relief Districts amount in number to about a thousand, and that their Lordships are not in possession of a list of them, but they will desire Sir R. Routh to furnish one with the least possible delay, showing what number is contained in each of the divisions under the charge of an inspecting officer.

State that their Lordships are ready to furnish store-room in Ireland for supplies belonging to the Association as far as they are able, but they apprehend that the stores which have been hired for the Government depôts, are, for the most part, required for the purpose for which they have been hired, and they would suggest, that it would, as a general rule, be desirable that the Association should send supplies of food to places for which the Government have not been able to make any provision.

MR. HALY to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

*Committee Room, South Sea House,
January 22, 1847.*

I AM desired by the Committee of the British Association to acquaint you, that they have accepted the services of the Count Strelitzki, for the purpose of proceeding to Ireland and visiting the counties Sligo, Donegal, and Mayo, and such other districts as may be hereafter determined upon; and I am directed to request that you will put the Count in communication with Sir Randolph Routh.

—
TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 26, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Sir R. Routh for his information and guidance.

Acquaint the Secretary to the Committee.

—
MR. BYHAM to MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, January 25, 1847.

IN reference to your communication of 22nd instant, I have the honour, by command of the Board of Ordnance, to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, that a copy of your letter of the 23rd, addressed to the Commissary-General in Ireland, has been sent to the respective officers of the Ordnance in Dublin, with instructions to communicate with the Commander of the Forces and the Commissary-General, and then to issue such orders to the Barrack Masters, and other Ordnance officers concerned as may be necessary to give effect to the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, towards the establishment of soup kitchens throughout Ireland.

—
TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 26, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Sir R. Routh for his information with reference to Mr. Trevelyan's letter to his address, dated 22nd instant.

—
MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

January 26, 1847.

PRAY inform me by *return of post*, whether you will require more boilers, remembering that we have undertaken to supply every Relief Committee in Ireland that wants one with one; and if more are wanted, you must tell me, as well as you can, of what kind, of what metal and shape, and above all, of what capacity they should be, in order that we may set the Ordnance and Admiralty and the Carron Foundry to work to make the number required.

The accompanying from Captain Hamilton will show you the cause of the delay of the arrival of the "Avenger" with her large cargo at Killibegs, but Hamilton states it as his opinion, that the boilers have only sprung a leak and that she is gone on.

You can order any of the Admiralty vessels stated in my letter to Captain Hamilton, dated the 16th instant, to be bound to Cork for orders, to proceed to Killibegs, and I shall arrange with Mr. Erichsen to-morrow for our next London cargo, about the destination of which I lately wrote to you, to go without delay to Killibegs. Captain Hamilton states, that an Admiralty steamer with a cargo on board belonging to the Committee has actually gone to the same place.

The Committee are disappointed at Mr. Bishop having forwarded some applications for assistance from their fund without having given any opinion upon them. They are naturally anxious to have the full benefit of the advice of yourself and your officers.

We have not yet received from the Admiralty the return called for of the two or three small vessels which they have freighted with provisions for Cork to proceed from thence according to your orders. Lord Auckland is opposed to the plan of having more floating depôts where it can be avoided; besides other objections, it is open to the obvious one of depriving us of the services of a vessel which might be usefully employed in conveying provisions.

I have nothing to add to what I said in my last on the subject of assisting the Union workhouses in cases in which the Lord Lieutenant determines that assistance is necessary, and it is hoped that you may be able to meet the calls upon you without establishing more depôts. See page 39.

We have had no communication with the Irish Society; but if they apply, we shall be ready to give them the same advantages as are given to the London (South Sea House) Association.

MR. TREVELYAN TO MR. S. JONES LLOYD.

January 26, 1847.

THE state of the county of Wicklow has, for some time past, given us great uneasiness, but as our utmost efforts are insufficient to provide food for the western district of Ireland, which is still more helpless and removed from succour, it was impossible for us to undertake a single operation on the eastern side of Ireland, which we should have been immediately called upon to extend throughout the whole country.

But now that your Committee is so largely in funds, and your prospects in this respect are so good, I do not hesitate to lay the case before you, in the hope that your Committee will give the county of Wicklow the relief which, for the reasons above stated, we dare not afford.

The accompanying report from the engineer of the Board of Works for the county of Wicklow, contains sufficient information to enable you to act at once, and all I need say in addition, is to assure you that the information contained in this report is completely borne out by numerous other reports and statements which I have seen, and I firmly believe that the picture drawn in it of the state of that part of the country, does not go beyond the truth.

Some of the members of your Committee may, perhaps, be surprised at the romantic Wicklow being the first of the eastern counties of Ireland in which the signs of approaching famine have distinctly appeared, but they must remember that the barren mountains, which make it so attractive to the tourist, have allowed of the existence of a state of society, and a dependence upon the potato, approaching to what prevails in the wildest districts of the west, and it is only within the present century that this district has lost its former reputation for lawlessness.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. BOYLE TO MR. WALKER.

County Wicklow, Arklow, January 17, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be so good as to lay before the Commissioners of Public Works, at your earliest convenience, the following report.

I have during the past week travelled nearly 190 miles, while visiting the Relief Works in the baronies of Upper Talbotstown and Lower Talbotstown, Ballinacree South, Shillelagh, and Arklow, embracing about one-half the county, and including a population of 88,000, of whom 5,200 are employed on Relief Works.

The facts that have within the period referred to, come within my personal observation, are such that I feel it imperative on me at once to submit them to the Commissioners of Public Works, and especially so as it appears to me that some system widely different from that at present in operation must be promptly and vigorously adopted.

The facts that I am about to relate have come within my personal observation; for confirmation of them, I can, if necessary, refer to every resident county gentleman and useful member of society in the districts under consideration, and as destitution increases in consequence of a diminution in the quantity of food, it must be evident that the estimates of the engineers are daily becoming less accurate, and that the quantity of work done even by the most well doing peasant is so steadily diminishing. Owing to the formation and physical state of this singular county, the population are also unequally dispersed, and many of my works are seriously overcrowded.

In the case of one road near Timahely of 2½ miles, there are 570 men crowded, but there is no alternative.

I have during the week examined into the state of the county as respects the existing amount of provisions, to the preparation of the food of the ensuing season, to the increase of distress, and also to the sanitary state of the people. As respects its political condition, I do not perceive any grounds for apprehension at present.

During the week I have been in personal communication with five Relief Committees, examined the shops of six towns, the capitals of their respective districts, attended an extraordinary session, and visited many farmers' houses.

The results of my inquiries have been uniformly the same.

Distress is everywhere increasing far beyond what any had anticipated. Take, for instance, in Ballinacree South, with a population of 15,490, we had last week 1317 labourers; to-morrow we shall have 1520, being nearly one-tenth of the population; in a fortnight we shall have 200 more. Here, there is no grain; wheat cannot of course be grown in the immediate vicinity of the mountains; little, very little corn has ever been grown, still less of course now about being cultivated.

I examined the shops in Timahely, the capital of the barony, 13 miles distant from the nearest source of supply, and containing 640 inhabitants in it. Nearly 900 labourers depend upon it for their supply, (the majority live in the mountains), yet I found in it barely two days' provisions.

In Dunskeane, population 980, a comparatively good market town, the capital of a great district, (growing some corn but no wheat), I found but three days' provisions, yet on this town more than 400 relief labourers depend for their supplies. It is chiefly supplied from Naas, 7 miles distant.

In Balinglass, there was not 1½ ton of meal, yet its population is 1928, and it is the most populous town on the western side of Wicklow; on it 700 relief labourers rely for their supply of food. Carlow, 12 miles distant, is its nearest point of supply.

Cummer, population 970, the capital of a great district, supplying 700 relief labourers, had but three days' provisions on the 17th: it depends on Enniscorthy, 14 miles distant.

Arklow, I know, I fear, but too often referred to; it is becoming rapidly worse in increase of poverty, and in amount of supply.

Yet these towns remote from ports in the interior, and in some instances in the vicinity of the mountains, are the capitals of extensive districts; on them 5200 labourers depend, and to them on pay nights the men resort for their supply of food for the ensuing week.

The misfortune is increased by the fact of credit having been in them, the last fortnight, so much diminished that even the number of hucksters has been lessened, and as competition diminishes prices of course rise. In many respects the condition of the peasant and of the small farmers is hourly becoming worse.

The price of oatmeal is now 3s. 4d. per stone; of Indian meal 2s. 9d. per stone. How far will 1s. per day go in supporting the strength of eight individuals at these rates?

No one can have the same opportunities of observing the results of these facts as the engineer. Daily have I observed the appearance of the same individuals. None have so forcibly struck me as the young men, who with comparatively stout appearance when first joining me, have, in a few weeks, been seen so faint at the trains, on what should be the hour of meal-time. Many of those whom I know, I could now scarcely recognise.

How can an engineer keep within his estimates? I have more than 4000 men working willingly by *bona fide* work, yet I know that I must let them off on such terms as do not return me sixpenny worth of work nor themselves one half sufficient food.

It cannot be otherwise, for turnips are now a principal article of food; six weeks since they were sold at 15s., now they are 35s. per ton.

Cattle consequently are becoming unprofitable; the Dublin meat market has become glutted, this has certainly however been partly attributable to the fears of the farmers for the safety of their stock.

I regret to say that as a consequence dysentery and dropsy are becoming very prevalent, and the latter complaint more frequently fatal. I find that the blood of those who have fallen victims is becoming more and more watery and weak, and that the complaint itself is on the increase; it now is less, much less, prevalent than has been usual at this season.

While travelling 180 miles chiefly through agricultural districts, I reckoned but 29 fields in which labour was in progress.

Yesterday, in a drive of 27 miles by daylight, I counted but four.

The haggards are still less usual. Of 34 farmers of the better class, 18 have not seed beyond a supply of food for two months, the majority could not hold out beyond April.

How can they now seed or till, is the common reply; potatoes they have not, money they have not, nor have they grain to grind sufficient to feed their labourers and themselves.

I much fear that ploughing will soon be disregarded, for of course the horses participate in the calamity that has visited the country. The "small" farmer cannot now work, nor has he seed, therefore he has become apathetic; the more extensive farmer has but too frequently sold his seed, and is almost a dependent, partly from a desire to avail himself of the rise in prices, and partly from fear of pillage.

If ordered, I shall continue this report.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, January 26, 1847.

I SEND you extract of a letter from Dr. John Sheil, of Ballyshannon. He represents the effect caused by a Committee selling under cost price, which has driven the flour and provision dealers from their market, and left them without any supply at a moment when their own funds are exhausted.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF DR. JOHN SHEIL, dated Ballyshannon, 15th January, 1847.

WITH respect to the position of this town, the case is this; that some gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood subscribed some sums to purchase oatmeal, to be sold out to the people at first cost. The capital so employed was by their desire to be all returned to them safe, but since they began to operate the price of provisions has got up. Their proceedings have therefore only tended to keep the provision dealers from laying in a supply, and it has driven the farmers to distant markets; in short, their interference with the provision trade has done more harm than good. They have been afraid that if the Committee which they themselves selected they not all members of the Relief Committee, some inroad might be made on their funds, but were give nothing in charity, and are nothing more than a set of provision dealers.

Sir Randolph Routh, in a letter published some time ago, explained the little advantage to be gained by an oatmeal speculation of this kind, and that it would do more harm than good. In consequence of their proceedings the flour and provision dealers have not brought any supply to this market, and there is less resort of farmers with their grain to the market. The relief of the poor from the sale of oatmeal at 2d. or 3d. under the provision dealers' price, is not equal to the injury that is caused by an interruption of the usual course of trade.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin,

January 26, 1847.

I HOPE to be able to give you the account of all the issues since 15th August to-morrow. The return now shows the issues and remains in each article at each dépôt. You will observe that whenever at the large dépôts there is a merchant retailing on reasonable terms, we abstain from issuing, and to this system we owe the importations that have arrived and are expected. We shall have some large issues at county Clare and Galway.

I am afraid you rate too high your estimate of our Committees, amongst which there are some excellent, and many very indolent and very indifferent, from whom we have never been able to obtain any satisfactory account. The Association also seem to expect too much from them, and I fear they will not fill in the forms they have sent out as they expect. There is one thing you must bear in mind, that none of the Committees are connected with electoral divisions and Unions with the exception of one county, which is county Wexford, and this has been done by Mr. Walker, the Vice-Lieutenant, whom you probably know.

An agent of the British Relief Association, Count P. G. Strelizski, apparently a Pole, but who speaks English well, passed through here to-day on his way to Sligo, to distribute on sale the cargo of the steamer "Urgent," which he expected to meet at Killibegs. We have had a gale of wind for the last two days. On the coast of Galway nothing has been so bad since 1839. The "Bull Dog" has arrived at Cork. The "Avenger" put back to Cork on account of the gale.

The biscuit seems to be very acceptable in the soup everywhere. The pea biscuit is admirable, as indeed are all the various qualities you sent to me; biscuit is also most acceptable to the poor as a portable food, requiring no fuel, which is scarce and dear.

The women are everywhere idle. Would not some materials for knitting, &c., be worthy the attention of the Association? If only a few could be employed it would be an example. There seems to be a general want of clothing, but it should be of very coarse materials; anything of a better description would be sold.

COMMISSARIAT.

Mr. SEWELL to Mr. PARKER.

Custom House, January 22, 1847.

THE Comptroller-General of the Coast Guard having laid before the Board a letter from Sir James Donabrain, the Inspector-General of the Coast Guard in Dublin, enclosing one from the inspecting commander at Ballycastle, in the port of Sligo, representing the distressed state of the crews of the stations in that district, in consequence of the dearth of provisions, and requesting that they may be furnished with a supply of meal by the Relief Committee—

I am directed by the Board to transmit herewith copies of these reports for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and to submit whether their Lordships may not be pleased to allow the parties to be supplied with meal from the Commissariat dépôt, as suggested by Sir James Donabrain.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir J. DONABRAIN to the COMPTROLLER-GENERAL of the COAST GUARD.

January 19, 1847.

I SUBMIT it will be necessary to take immediate measures to supply the stations on the western coast with provisions, and suggest to you that it would be desirable to employ the "Vulcan" to convey what may be required; and I further submit, application be made to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to allow the issues from the Commissariat depôts at such price as they may direct.

If some immediate steps be not taken, the crews will be starved out, as there is no provision to be purchased near many of the stations.

Lieut. HENRI to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL of the COAST GUARD.

Ballycastle, January 17, 1847.

ENCLOSED I have the honour to transmit you a letter from Lieutenant Harding, requesting, on the part of his crew, that a ton and a quarter of meal be sent to Ballyrig for their relief, &c., for the value of which he will be accountable.

I beg to add that all the crews in this district are similarly situated.

SIR,

Ballyrig, January 14, 1847.

I ALSO have to acquaint you that the crew of this station most humbly requests that a supply of meal, 1 ton 5 cwt., may be granted them from the Relief Committee at the reduced price; from the dearth of the provisions, and having large families to support, their pay is not sufficient to meet their demand; the crew are therefore induced to solicit the above favour. I will be accountable for the payment for the meal.

Lieut. Henri, R.N.,
Inspecting Commander, Ballycastle.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) G. HARDING,
Lieut. of Station.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 26, 1847.

Write to the Commissioners of Customs that their Lordships cannot authorise meal being sold from the Government depôts for the use of the officers and men of the Coast Guard, but they do not object to the "Vulcan" steamer, or any other Government vessel, being employed to convey from Limerick, or any other neighbouring mart, such supplies of food as the officers and men of the Coast Guard may wish to purchase from private merchants on their own account.

Transmit a copy of the letter from the Commissioners of Customs, and of its Enclosures, and of this Minute, to Sir R. Routh for his information and guidance.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVETAN.

Limerick, January 24, 1847.

I ENCLOSE sundry copies of letters addressed by me to Relief Committees, to give you an insight into the tone of my correspondence upon the subjects on which they treat. Now that I see Commissariat supplies are likely to come in more abundantly than I had any previous idea of, I shall be enabled to extend our issues, but we have a long season of destitution before us, and Committees must largely assist, however they may be disinclined. I think the Limerick market will be passably well stocked, but the demand upon the trade is very great. Thank God (whatever I may have said upon their profits, which I know to be very large) that we have such substantial and extensive dealers to meet it. Prices remain 19s. per ton Indian meal, all others in proportion. I am fast stocking the Clare Castle depot. I have some apprehension that Kenmare will scarcely get on without either a depot or an occasional visit from a perambulating steamer. Such a vessel, having an intelligent clerk in charge on board, occasionally visiting these accessible points to issue to Committees, on payment, might be very beneficial; she should carry about 80 tons, her engines perfect, for what with the time occupied in coal-ing, and repairs of boilers and machinery in old craft, I am sadly put out; the heavy weather prevailing is also a great drawback upon our operations. There is yet a fearful perspective, and I do not clearly see our way, or that it will be possible to stem but a portion of the overwhelming calamity. If instead of public meetings, long speeches, and endless resolutions, the leading men of Ireland would go into really practical measures, reside on their estates, and personally assist to carry them out, how much good might be done.

The admiral's note of the 18th, a copy of which you sent me says: "We have now in the Shannon three steam-vessels, 'Pluto,' 'Albion,' and 'Comet.'" The "Pluto" is entirely occupied as guard-ship in the Fergus, and in other respects of no use to me, nor can she be disturbed. I would rather see the "Blaser" and any other steamer that may added to this service, running between Cork, and every accessible point where Relief Committees require their purchases of food to be transported, than remaining stationary in any of the bays, Dingle, Berehaven, &c. The "Swallow" is still on the ship. I have had no aid from her for the last three months. I shall be well pleased to see the "Ant" lighter, in the Shannon.

ENCLOSURES.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. HICKSON.

January 13, 1847.

I HAVE BEEN obliged to defer replying to your second letter of the 28th ultimo, as it was necessary to institute certain inquiries, to which I have the following replies coming from authority.

Castle Gregory.

How far from Dingle?—15 miles.

How far from Tralee?—18 miles.

What sort of road?—Good.

Whether vessels can come near enough to discharge in safety?—Within half a mile.

Whether hucksters or shops are there?—Small shops.

In the mean time I had instructed Mr. Hill, the person in charge of the reserve depot at Dingle, to communicate with your Committee, offering, if indispensably requisite, occasional supplies from that place, in aid; or they could, if more convenient, be sent from Kilrush, on application to Captain Mann, in charge of that relief depot.

With respect to your application on behalf of the Committee, for a depot to be established at Castle Gregory, it is not, under the circumstances, deemed necessary so to do, but as I have before observed, every assistance our limited means will afford, shall be given in aid of their endeavours, which should be unremitting, to provide food on their own account elsewhere.

I have further to observe, that there is no better way of dealing with the relief of urgent distress than by establishing soup houses for the issue of soup. And it is satisfactory to perceive that this mode of relief is, in many places, rapidly coming into successful operation. I may also remark, that a donation of pounds for pound upon all subscriptions raised in localities where the workhouse is full, will be granted by the Government, with a view to the application of such sums being directed to the distribution of soup, which is the cheapest and most nourishing food that can, under the circumstances, be given, and I would strongly urge upon your Committee the importance of adopting measures for carrying out the above plan of relief.

I may also add, that although the funds administered by the Relief Committees are in the main appropriated to buying meal and selling it again at cost price, gratuitous issues are allowed in exceptional cases of peculiar destination, to the infirm poor, to widows, orphans, and children who have no one on whom they are dependent, or whose parents are incapacitated from affording them relief, by sickness, or other cause, and that these gifts of food should accordingly be made from charitable motives, but it is not desirable that any portion of the fund should be employed in selling at less than cost price.

I address this letter to Dublin, having understood, through chairman of the Committee, you are not a resident at Castle Gregory.

Commissary-General HEWITSON to Mr. CULLINAN.

January 16, 1847.

I AM in receipt of your letter, dated Ennis, yesterday. It is evident from what you state, touching the situation of your district, that the Inch and Kilmecly Relief Committees are called upon to make the most strenuous exertions to provide food for their people from every available source, obtaining voluntary subscriptions, or in failure thereof, money on loan, to form a relief fund, with which to purchase supplies in the Limerick or Kilrush markets, to retail to their people at cost price. It is true a small depot is to be placed at Clare Castle, but the Government resources are at present much too limited to permit of supplying Committees to anything like the extent of their entire wants, more especially Committees which can avail themselves of the markets before mentioned. Nevertheless, as far as our means will allow, the Inch and Kilmecly Committee shall, in common with others, receive occasional aid from the Kilrush, or Clare Castle depot, communicating with Captain Mann, R.N., in charge of the relief service in your part of the county, but you cannot fail to perceive that there is an imperative necessity requiring Committees to strain every means in their power to purchase and bring food into their districts from other sources. At a later period I should hope we shall be enabled greatly to extend our aid. A large portion of the Government supplies will be in Indian corn and peas, which will be issued whole to Committees; the enclosed paper explains a mode of preparing the corn, so as to afford a most wholesome and nutritious food. The terms upon which sales will be made from the depots will be the market prices. Our present rate is 18*l.* per ton for Indian meal.

I have further to observe (as in letter to Mr. Hickson).

Commissary-General HEWITSON to the Rev. J. O'SULLIVAN.

January 16, 1847.

I AM in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date. The "Comet" steamer was ordered from Tarbert to Kenmare, with 20 tons of meal, the day following the evening you called upon me. I fear the heavy weather, which I cannot control, must have been in the way of her reaching her destination with the dispatch I wished. I have a letter from Cove, stating that your supplies would be forwarded insister from thence on the arrival of the first steamer; I now, to meet any further untoward delay, send you an order on the Castletown depot for 10 tons, half meal, half biscuit. I gave you to understand the Government resources were at present far too scanty to meet anything like the entire wants of Committees, and you must observe, we have to afford aid beginning from Skibbereen along the whole west coast to the north-western part of Donegal; thus you cannot fail to perceive the imperative necessity of Committees making the most strenuous exertions to import food from other sources. The cost of the supplies now forwarded to your Committee, and those ordered from Castletown will be—

Meal, 18*l.* per ton.

Biscuit, 16*l.* „

The meal sacks 1*s.* 8*d.* each, biscuit bags 1*s.* 6*d.* each. The expense of these packages will be repaid if returned in fair condition. In closing this letter I would again impress on your Committee the necessity of making every exertion to import from Cork, where there are more available means of transport by Government steamers than from hence; nevertheless, should you be desirous of purchasing in the market, Messrs. Miles, brothers, merchants and factors, have been employed by the Killarney Committee, and I believe gave satisfaction. A letter of credit, in my hands, for what you may now receive, you can forward to me here by an early opportunity. The establishment of soup houses as recommended by me to your consideration in a former letter, I would again earnestly urge, as a most beneficial mode of relief to your people.

Commissary-General HEWITSON to the Rev. J. KEAM, P.P.

January 17, 1847.

I HAVE your letter to Captain Mann, Kilrush, but without date. I am not aware of having offered to the extent of 10 tons of meal to the Castle Gregory Committee; however, as you appear to be without present resources, you can obtain from the Dingle depot eight tons of meal and two of biscuit, paying for the same on delivery, 18*l.* per ton for the former and 16*l.*

the latter; also the cost of the packages in deposit until their return. I hope, as earnestly recommended to your Chairman, a soup house will at once be established. Having no present disposable vessel to send to Castle Gregory from Killybeg, I refer you for dispatch by land carriage to Dingle.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir A. DE VEE, Bart.

January 20, 1847.

In reply to your note of yesterday's date, I enclose a copy of a communication I have recently made to several Relief Committees upon the subject of your inquiry regarding soup houses. On raising a subscription to meet this special object, and forwarding a detailed list thereof to the relief office, Dublin, addressed to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant will direct a donation of pound for pound to be added thereto from the Government funds in my possession. Your list should be accompanied by a certificate that the sums subscribed have been paid up. The issue of the soup should be made under the same regulations, with the exceptions stated in the enclosure, as issues by Committees of meal, or other supplies purchased with Relief Funds, viz., it should be issued at cost price.

It is found that whole corn, cooked as directed in Article 2 of the enclosure herewith, affords a most excellent and nutritious meal. In the soup house established by the friends in this city, one of the candidates is applied for cooking whole corn, and to each quart of soup a quarter of a bushel of corn is added. The people are now most anxious to get the corn so prepared, finding even so small a quantity sufficient to give a most strengthening food to their families; it is also less expensive than meal.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to the Rev. J. ROBBINS.

January 21, 1847.

I AM in receipt of your note of the 19th instant. The only supplies in the Government depot in this city, at present, are, Indian corn, Indian corn meal, and some oatmeal. The prices are as follows, viz.—

	£.	s.	d.	
Indian whole corn	17	10	0	} per ton.
Indian meal	19	0	0	
Oatmeal	23	10	0	

but Relief Committees within reach of the Limerick market must not look for aid from the Government depot, at all events for the present, the supplies on hand being insufficient to meet the demands from remote districts, out of the reach of such resources. The Meena Union Relief Committee must, in common with many others similarly situated, supply their wants from the trade in this city, and I would recommend their at once making arrangements accordingly.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. MOLONY.

January 23, 1847.

Your application for supplies made to the storekeeper at Clare Castle depot, will be attended to as far as our resources will admit, but it is necessary you should lose no time in communicating with Captain Mann, Killybeg, who is in charge of the Commissariat Relief depot in Clare, on the subject; he will regulate the quantity to be issued, and receive payment for the same; the present price is 19s. per ton for Indian meal. Your Committee must also avail themselves largely of the Limerick market, as the Commissariat reserves are not equal to meet anything like the entire wants of Committees, and are likewise much pressed by districts and localities on the south and west coast, where food cannot be so readily obtained as in the neighbourhood of this city. It is most essential I should impress this fact upon your Committee that no relaxation may ensue in their own praiseworthy exertions.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. HEWETSON.

Treasury, January 27, 1847.

I AM much obliged to you for your interesting letter of the 24th instant, with its enclosures.

Nothing can be more satisfactory than your proceedings as detailed therein which preserve the true medium between giving assistance to the Committee and throwing them upon other resources.

I shall be glad to hear of Captain Mann's farther progress in rousing the Relief Committees into exertion and establishing soup kitchens.

It has for a long time past been fully understood that the Admiralty steamers and the Coast Guard vessels are to give all the assistance possible in conveying supplies for the Relief Committees; but the distinct and practical form you give to this plan, by proposing that a "perambulating steamer," with an

intelligent clerk in charge on board, should be expressly appropriated to this duty, and should visit all accessible points, to issue to Committees on payment, appears to be well deserving of adoption, and we shall be obliged to you to take the necessary steps in communication with Sir R. Routh and Admiral Pigot to give effect to it. The only additional suggestion I have to make is that more than one vessel should be appointed for this purpose.

I was very sorry to hear that you had been ailing. If I thought it necessary, I would exhort you to take heart and win gallantly through this trying time; and as long as you live, it will be a satisfaction to you to have given, at whatever sacrifice, the valuable assistance we are now deriving from you.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 25, 1847.

I THINK the "Tartarus" had better go, *via* Cork, to fill up the Western depôts of Castleton, Cahirciveen, and Dingle, and land the remainder of her cargo at Limerick.

If the "Bull Dog" has barley meal, I should wish her to proceed to Galway. I shall write to the Admiral in the same sense.

The "Avenger" has, at last turned up. She hove to off Cork at 2 P.M. for a pilot for Killibegs, and proceeded again on her voyage at 4 P.M. on the 23rd instant.

We shall have the Union workhouse in Donegal immediately upon us, and I think Swineford in county Mayo, and two in county Clare.

I will get a list made out of the Inspecting Officers and their stations and our depôts, and get the maps coloured as you desire, but it will take a day or two.

The boilers required for the soup kitchens should be of a hundred gallons each. The small ones of eight gallons used by the troops would be of no use; the fuel alone would be such an increased expense. The capacity of the boilers in the cooking-houses is stated at 18 gallons, and when you consider the many thousand applicants for soup, you will easily perceive that a 100-gallon boiler is by no means an unreasonable size. We have had some of 60 gallons, and they have fixed a frame-work of wood at the top to increase their capacity.

I observe what you say of the pork, and act accordingly. The handmills you speak of should be forwarded to the ports where they are likely to sell. I do not remember that you have mentioned to me the price; but you will recollect that the soup system has rather turned the public attention from handmills. I will give you a list of the places.

You must calculate on a very large issue to the workhouses, and we have at least three months before us, and a very severe pressure it will be.

I do not see how I can find time to sit as a member of Sir John Burgoyne's Board. I have not a minute in the day unemployed, or that I can allot to another duty. The Lord Lieutenant re-appoints a Board of Health, and has sent me an appointment as Commissioner, but I have no time for it, nor Mr. Stanley, who is in his office until nine every night, and takes home work he cannot finish at that hour.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

January 28, 1847.

THE "Tartarus" turns out to be capable of taking only about 80 tons; but she shall go to Cork to receive your orders in regard to the Castletown and other depôts.

We have two vessels engaged in the Thames for Killibegs to follow the "Avenger;" and I hope to get the "Belleisle," a large troop ship now at Portsmouth, to take on board a really large cargo of barley-meal at that place, to be disposed of as you may desire.

If not too late, pray mark the Union workhouses on the relief map, and tell me which of them you think are likely to require supplies of meal from us.

The London Committee are going to send a cargo to Wexford or Arklow for sale at prime cost. Which of these places would you recommend; and have you any further suggestion to make on the subject? the Relief Committees in the most distressed localities in that neighbourhood, might, perhaps, be placed in communication with the officer in charge of the meal on board the vessel freighted by the Association.

We have heard a great deal from several quarters of the want of food in the counties of Wicklow and Kilkenny, and shall be glad to know what your opinion is.

I am disappointed at the Ordnance iron pots turning out too small, but I have taken immediate steps to supply the deficiency; have purchased eight or ten boilers holding from 60 to 100 gallons each, to be put on board the two vessels bound for Killibegs; have requested the Admiralty to have new boilers made as fast as possible at Woolwich, at the rate of 20 or 30 a week; and have set on foot active enquiries at the principal iron foundries, from the answers to which it appears that the Carron and other foundries are fully employed, and could not undertake to make a delivery of new boilers in less than two months; but we are in hopes that we shall be more successful at the foundries at Liverpool.

We all think it quite necessary that you should be a member of General Burgoyne's Board, whether you are able to take an active part in the proceedings of it or not. You can, at any rate, keep yourself *au fait* of what is going on, and give them your advice, and keep your proceedings in harmony with theirs.

The London Committee hold to the arrangement by which you were authorized to give as far as 25*l.* on their part, the Government giving an equal sum.

We have all along recommended the London Committee to follow, as far as possible, the plan of selling to the Relief Committees at cost price, and not to attempt the direct distribution of food through their own agents where they can avoid it.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 28, 1847.

I ENCLOSE two notes from Capt. Bellew and Capt. Haymes, having reference to two applications to the British Relief Association, and you may think it necessary that the Association should see them, as they bear on the subject of the two enclosures submitted to them.

ENCLOSURES.

Captain HAYMES to Sir R. ROUTH.

January 27, 1847.

KYLE is a miserably poor district, with nearly 2000 population, of which 200 labourers are wholly without employ. The charity will be well bestowed, but I should recommend it being given on the condition that it be immediately applied to the establishment of a *soup kitchen*. Sir Charles Coste is the great landholder, owning nearly the entire district. He appears to have done much good privately, but has hitherto declined aiding the Relief Fund, or any public fund, even for a soup kitchen.

I have already seen enough of the country to convince me that of all the remedies to avert the horrors of starvation, none has equalled the establishment of these soup kitchens. I feel persuaded the moment is fast approaching that we shall have nothing else to depend on.

I use my best endeavours to impress this on the Committees' minds. I am now on my tour of inspection, and hope to inspire them with new courage; already I have been fortunate enough to prevent one or two from resigning altogether. The country would be in a sad state without them. The poor peasants are growing desperate for want of work; many commit felony on purpose to be transported; they say they would be at least warm, and have enough to eat.

I shall make no report until I can say what I have seen in this county, and then go to the

other. I have to thank you for making me known to Lord Reese, from whom I have received such information as materially assists me in the object of my mission; he is, in truth, a bright example for all "lords of the soil," more particularly those of Ireland.

Captain BELLEW to Sir R. ROUTE.

*Dendermott, near Castlereagh,
Wednesday, January 27, 1847.*

I SEND one of the forms received from your office a few days since, which was put into my hands by the postman when on the point of starting for this place. I do not wish to delay a moment in forwarding it, for the relief from private charities, to be really effectual, should be almost immediate.

I am this instant off for Castlereagh and Ballintobber to see if any convenient place can be found, or any other conveniences for a soup establishment; the obstacles to getting these up in remote country places are very great.

I was yesterday, for many hours, at the meeting of Cloonygommon, in the barony of Ballymoe, where the state of things is almost as deplorable as in this district.

Will you be so good as to have a form similar to that which I now send transmitted to P. O'Connor, Esq., Dendermott.

I will report more fully on Ballintobber district the moment I am able.

I forward a note received this morning from Capt. Burmester.

MY DEAR SIR,

Castlereagh, January 26, 1847.

I SEND to forward to you the enclosed, that has been handed to me by the sub-inspector of police.

I would wish to call your attention to the district of Castleplunket, where the suffering is greater than in any locality with which I am acquainted. I saw a man lying dead on the road close to the village the other day, on my return here from Strokestown.

I know of no place where the establishment of a soup kitchen would be of greater advantage.

Castleplunket has no resident proprietors. The landlord is a Mr. Murphy, a great cattle dealer, residing in Dublin, and the district adjoining the village has long been one of the most turbulent and troublesome in the county.

I am, &c.,

A. G. BURMESTER.

Capt. Bellew.

Henderson, the head constable at Castleplunket, is a most active and intelligent officer, and is the only man you could employ. The police barracks are well situated in a field a short distance from the village.

Sir R. ROUTE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 28, 1847.

I INFORMED you in my previous letters that the iron pots, &c., in Ireland, would be quite useless for soup kitchens, for which the boilers should be from 80 to 100 gallons.

It is difficult to say how many would be required. The societies here are furnishing them gratuitously. I cannot be wrong, however, in saying 40 of 100 gallons each: 10 at Sligo, 10 at Limerick, 10 at Cork, and 10 at Dublin.

You will probably like to know the donations which have been given at the extreme west.

		Donation.	Subscription.
		£.	£.
Skull . . .	12 November .	23	on 46
" . . .	14 January .	140	" 92
" . . .	25 January .	100	" 82
" . . .	" . . .	50	" 50
Baltimore . .	19 January .	150	" 113
" . . .	" . . .	90	" 76
Bantry . . .	26 January .	170	" 118
Skibbereen .	22 December .	100	" 100
100l. donation in reserve at the Skibbereen bank when their funds require it.			
Goleen, including Crookhaven		80	on 80
Ditto in January . . .		250	" 196

These places are in want of boilers, but I understand they are on board the "Dragon," and will be supplied to Baltimore, Skull, and Crookhaven, and to Castleton Berhaven.

Mr. Adams is now in the baronies of Gallen and Tyravley, County Mayo, and I look for his report. Swinford has sent in a subscription of 73*l*, and received a donation of 100*l*. A subscription is getting up at Foxford, and I am daily expecting the list from Crossmolina.

Whenever rates shall be called for, the subscriptions must be expected to diminish considerably.

You will see in the annexed letter from Capt. Fishbourne that he gives a different version from Capt. Mann, of the Scariff Union. He speaks very highly of Colonel Wyndham.

I am waiting to see the Lord Lieutenant. Your letter of to-day says I am to issue food and not money. I am ready to act as may be decided.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain FISHBOURNE to Sir R. ROUTE.

Ennis, January 24, 1847.

I VISITED Scariff, and am of opinion that it is a highly favoured place, for the miller sells wheat at the wholesale prices at Limerick, and appears to supply the neighbourhood tolerably. I shall, however, endeavour to get the Committee to get their supplies for the soup shop from Limerick or Dublin, in order to reserve the miller's stock.

There is no doubt distress there, but principally of that kind which arises from the high prices, not that they have not any food, but that they have not sufficient to satisfy, though sufficient to sustain.

There is also distress because of abuses, that is, favouritism, and a departure in the majority of the Committee from their stipulations, in admitting improper persons on the works. I was told that "the farmers argued that though they had some stock, it would soon be cut, and they thought that they who would have to pay the taxes, had a better right to a portion of them than those that paid none; thus I believe to be the argument of some members of the Committee who have out-voted those who have a status in the county, and have driven them away. This must be rectified, even though some of them were removed from the Committee; and certainly the Government money should be withheld till they are sensible what their stipulations are, and are willing to adhere to them. As for the poor-house, I fear its state is owing to their having driven Mr. Malony, and others such as him, from their councils, and it is difficult to know what will become of their poor. I purpose attending the Committee to-morrow, and shall make more inquiries on that head, and will endeavour to find out if there are really any cases of destitution, for at present the accounts that have come to me are but vague generalities. On my way home I observed that there were scarcely any but boys employed on the Relief Works, and on inquiry I was told that the men had gone to their duty, and on asking what that meant, I was informed that every Saturday they were allowed to go to confession, but half a day's wages was stopped. I should think they cannot be very badly off, who can afford to throw 5*l*. or 6*l*. away thus.

There is by no means the demand for the soup here that I witnessed in Limerick; mostly owing to Colonel Wyndham, who supplies 10,000 daily, and if I may be allowed an opinion, you would do well to let him have a small supply till that which he has ordered shall arrive. Mr. Crowe has written to Mann to that effect. I feel that it would not cause Colonel Wyndham to relax in his efforts to keep up his own supply. He has every claim on the county, and I do think it would be grateful to all that you showed that you were sensible of it. His farms and his tenants bear ample testimony to his endeavours.

Three gentlemen here have given security for 500*l*. each, to import and sell at low prices; and Mr. Malony is losing, or was losing, 10*l*. per week on his soup kitchen (petty kitchen); he found that he could not trust it to the man he had appointed over it, and now attends, with his own son, himself. The unscrupulous way in which the poor are defrauded, is the melancholy feature about it.

The tenants of whom I spoke to you, said to belong to Colonel Wyndham's estate, Mr. Crowe thinks are under-tenants not recognised by him; but he is encouraging them to emigrate, and will assist them to do so. Mr. Crowe is strongly against the people's being employed upon the farms instead of the roads, if paid as if on the roads; he is Colonel Wyndham's agent; he proposes to steep the seeds in some poison to insure their being sown.

Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Skibbereen, County Cork, January 29, 1847.

THE mass of the extreme destitution in the south of Ireland is concentrated in the districts I have been traversing during the past three weeks,

[c. 2.]

F

namely, in the two divisions of West Carbery, Bantry, and Bere. My exertions have been directed, and I trust successfully, to establishing, or where established, to extending, by the aid of Government, the benefits of soup kitchens in the most distressed localities. At this moment there are twenty-six soup establishments in operation in the above-named districts, and I have others in view. The average relief afforded by these kitchens is 17,000 pints of a good meat soup distributed daily. This relief is of course very partial, as compared with the extent of population in the districts. Unfortunately such is the total destitution in this neighbourhood, that the issue of the soap, and I fear of other food, must to a great extent be made gratuitously.

The liberal aid which is now pouring in from all quarters, has a cheering effect upon the poor people, and their condition will, I earnestly hope, rapidly improve; but such is the prostration of strength, so paralysed are their energies, that no human effort can, I think, prevent great mortality in the remoter districts. It was at Skull, Kilmoe, and part of the barony of Bere, lying between Glengarriff and Castletown, that I witnessed the greatest distress.

Soup kitchens, however great the good they spread, are not free from evils, one of which is, the great slaughter amongst the poor people's cows; all are selling to the soup shops; no thought of milk for the children, or of butter for the rent; all is sacrificed to the urgency of the moment.

The recent long and very severe gale has unfortunately prevented the arrival of those supplies we were in hopes to have spread ere this along the coast. The floating depot for Skull arrived yesterday, and has commenced issues; this removes all anxiety for that quarter.

THEATRE MINUTE.

January 26, 1847.

Wrote to the Secretary for Ireland, and referring to the intention of Her Majesty's Government to propose to Parliament that a sum of 50,000*l.* should be appropriated for making loans, repayable after next harvest, to landed proprietors in Ireland, for the purpose of assisting them to furnish necessary supplies of seed, in cases in which the poorer class of tenants have consumed their usual stock of seed, owing to the scarcity of food, request that he will move the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint this Board what arrangements he would suggest for the purpose of ensuring that these loans shall be made to such persons as might not otherwise be able to assist their tenantry, that they shall only be applied to the object for which they are intended, and that they will be duly repaid.

MR. REDINGTON to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 6, 1847.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant, to state, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that his Excellency has given his consideration to the manner in which the sum proposed to be appropriated in the way of loan, for the purpose of providing a supply of seed for the ensuing year, can be most effectually applied to that object.

His Excellency is of opinion that no portion of the sum in question should be advanced in money to any parties; but that it should be expended, under the direction of the Government, in the purchase of seed, to be supplied to those who may apply for such assistance.

With this view his Excellency has requested Commissary-General Sir R. Routh to make enquiries as to the terms on which seed can be procured, and the facilities which exist for its distribution in various parts of this country.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 25, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the weekly return of the Commissariat depôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations, and of the sums subscribed up to the 23rd instant.

DONATIONS ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORD LIEUTENANT, IN AID OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO RELIEF COMMITTEES.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donation.			Subscription.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	Amount brought forward	20,629	18	0	30,063	10	8
Jan. 18 .	Lough Gilly district, county Armagh	60	0	0	60	2	6
"	Sloran district, county Sligo	64	0	0	64	11	1
"	Clanoe district, county Tyrone	72	0	0	72	13	0
"	Clonard district, county Meath	81	0	0	81	3	6
"	Clonmacnoise district, county Armagh	166	0	0	166	0	0
"	Kanturk district, county Cork	186	0	0	186	0	10
"	Taghmon district, county Wexford	71	0	0	71	10	0
"	Portlanna district, county Galway	302	0	0	302	1	0
"	Arhee district, county Tyrone	79	0	0	79	12	9
"	Kilfinnagh district, county Clare	200	0	0	167	7	3½
"	Kinnataloon district, county Cork	328	0	0	328	2	9
"	Grangeville district, county Carlow	203	0	0	203	0	0
"	New Pallas district, county Limerick	161	0	0	161	3	0
"	Ross district, county Cork	120	0	0	189	0	0
"	Kilturban district, county Dublin	79	0	0	79	10	0
"	Stradone district, county Cavan	100	0	0	100	0	0
"	Tipperary district, county Tipperary	295	0	0	295	0	0
Jan. 19 .	Roscommon district, county Roscommon	70	0	0	46	4	9
"	Baltimore district, county Cork	150	0	0	113	0	0
"	Ballinabber district, county Mayo	54	0	0	46	0	0
Jan. 20 .	Clonegal district, county Carlow	107	0	0	107	7	8
"	Crossakel district, county Meath	140	0	0	139	0	0
"	Killeshney district, county Armagh	205	0	0	205	5	7
"	Donoughmore district, county Cork	100	0	0	64	8	4
"	Kinsale district, county Cork	36	0	0	36	8	0
"	Piercy district, county Roscommon	60	0	0	42	15	0
"	Kilman district, county Cork	402	0	0	402	17	6
"	Crossroads district, county Donegal	80	0	0	54	10	0
Jan. 21 .	Dramagey district, county Westmeath	153	0	0	153	15	6
"	Myross district, county Cork	75	0	0	50	0	0
"	Ballyshannon district, county Donegal	100	0	0	80	12	0
"	Graiguen district, county Kilkenny	200	0	0	231	0	0
"	Crossboyne district, county Mayo	180	0	0	124	0	0
"	Tyman district, county Armagh	219	0	0	219	5	0
"	Thomavara district, county Tipperary	90	0	0	90	0	0
Jan. 22 .	Thine and Kilcooly district, county Meath	195	0	0	195	10	0
"	Bathore district, county Meath	180	0	0	180	16	6
"	Newport district, county Tipperary	64	0	0	64	0	0
"	Hollymount district, county Mayo	80	0	0	42	10	0
"	Forlane district, King's County	58	0	0	42	7	0
"	Castlesodan district, county Limerick	42	0	0	42	16	0
"	Eyresour district, county Galway	169	0	0	169	12	6
"	Buraha district, county Tipperary	115	0	0	115	3	0
"	Atherry district, county Galway	62	0	0	62	13	0
		26,591	16	0	35,731	5	8½
Jan. 21 .	Ballyshannon, enclosed	100	0	0	89	12	0
		26,491	16	0	35,650	13	8½

Dublin Castle, January 25, 1847.

R. J. ROYCE, Commissary-General.

Mr. FORSTER to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

Tottenham, January 25, 1847.

THE letters we have received from our friends in the United States of America inform us, that the subject of Irish distress has already called forth their warm sympathy and interest, and from the Western States of Ohio, Indiana, &c., where they have had a most abundant harvest, they liberally offer to contribute in grain or meal, if we will pay the freightage. These offers were made previous to their being so fully informed of the extent of the distress, as would be the case when they received the enclosed circular addressed to the various sections of the Quakers' church throughout America.

Now we feel confident from the promises made and what further efforts will produce that we should be able to freight two vessels at least, say from 500 to 700 tons each, to be loaded the one at New York and the other at New Orleans, if the Government would kindly confide to us the use of two of their steamers for this purpose, unshipped of guns. When I briefly mentioned this subject to thee at our interview on the 20th instant, thou entertained it favourably and encouraged me to communicate with thee further about it. I therefore now take the liberty, on behalf of my friends, of making a direct request to thee for this assistance, in carrying out a plan by which we entertain the hope, that food sufficient to maintain from 15,000 to 20,000 persons for six months, may be obtained.

I know the preciousness of thy time, and therefore should be sorry to intrude upon thee, but if thou would kindly put me in communication with the right parties to follow up the business, I will promptly attend to the same, or, if desired, will wait upon thee at such time as thou mayest request.

ENCLOSURE.

ADDRESS to FRIENDS in NORTH AMERICA from the COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY of FRIENDS in LONDON, appointed on this subject of the DISTRESS existing in IRELAND.

DEAR FRIENDS,

THAT brotherly love and sympathy which have so long prevailed between us and our friends in America induce us to communicate with you on a subject which is at present exciting a very deep and lively interest in the minds of friends in this country.

You are, doubtless, already well aware of the existence of the awful calamity which has overspread a large part of Ireland. The almost total failure of the potato crop, on which so great a proportion of the inhabitants of that country depended for a supply of food, has occasioned destitution and famine to an alarming extent. This afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence early awakened the sympathies of Friends in Ireland and in England; and meetings of Friends were in consequence convened, both in Dublin and in London, to consider the subject. The meetings thus held entered with hearty concurrence upon the subject; and notwithstanding the large and comprehensive measures of the Government for providing employment for able-bodied labourers, and the partial efforts made in some quarters to raise collections for the distressed, it was felt that there was a part which Friends had to perform, and to which they were called to apply themselves with earnestness and zeal. Committees were accordingly appointed by the said meetings respectively; and these Committees are now in active operation, cordially and harmoniously labouring together.

The administrative part of the work of course rests, in a great measure, with our friends in Ireland; and we have the satisfaction to inform you that they have made wise and efficient arrangements for the fulfilment of their trust, and are acting in it with great zeal and assiduity. The appeal which has been made to Friends generally, in both countries, has been responded to with marked liberality; but we feel that the amount that can be thus raised will be little indeed in comparison with the magnitude of the calamity to be relieved,—a calamity affecting millions of our fellow-subjects, and of the probable termination of which we cannot at present form any idea.

Our friends in Dublin have established a correspondence with their brethren in various parts of Ireland, with the view of collecting information and assisting in the distribution of relief; and our dear friend William Foester, under a feeling of duty, offered himself to undertake a visit of inspection through the most destitute districts. This offer was cordially encouraged by his friends both in London and Dublin; and he has been for several weeks, and still is, laboriously employed in the prosecution of his arduous engagement. A Friend of Ireland is associated with him therein; and they have been agreeably and usefully attended by one or more young men from this country. The reports received from these friends (of the first portion of which we send you a printed copy, together with our Address to Friends,) furnish ample evidence that the accounts of the existing destitution had been by no means over-stated, and prove, that whilst a very commendable anxiety to succour the starving population around them, is more or less prevalent amongst the comparatively few who are of ability to do so in the respective districts, there is a crying necessity for all the additional aid that can be afforded: they also show that suitable channels are open for the distribution of the money which may be raised.

Our friends in Dublin have been diligently occupied in devising and perfecting plans for prudently supplying relief in the districts thus visited; and also in investigating and meeting the claims which are beginning to pour in upon them from other quarters.

We have now briefly, and we are aware but imperfectly, given you to understand what is thus awakening our sympathy and our sorrow. We hear that you have, during the past year, been blessed with very fruitful harvests in many parts of your continent; and we wish, in thus communicating with you, not only to enlist your sympathies, but to open the way for your co-operation, and to invite you, in the exercise of that enlarged commiseration which you will

doubtless feel, to aid us in this work, by the supply of either food or money, as you may think fit.

Signed by order and on behalf of the Committee,

JOSIAH FORSTER.	THOMAS FOWLER.
SAMUEL GURNEY.	FRANCIS FOX.
ROBERT FORSTER.	THOMAS NORTON, Junr.
JOSEPH JACKSON LISTER.	SAMUEL STURGE.
JOSEPH T. FOSTER.	MELLIK COVENTRY.
JOHN ALLICROD.	HENRY CHRISTY.
JOHN HODGKIN,	

CHARLES TYLOR, }
RICHMAN GODALE. } *Secretaries.*

*Friends' Meeting House, Hoardsditch, London,
2nd of 1st Month, 1847.*

*Revolutions and Communications may be addressed to the Treasurer, THOMAS FOWLER,
4, Princes Street, Bath, London.*

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 29, 1847.

Write to Mr. Forster that my Lords have had before them his letter, dated 25th instant, addressed to Lord John Russell, stating that members of the Society of Friends in the United States of America had offered to make a free gift of two cargoes of grain and meal for the relief of the distress in Ireland, provided the freight were paid in this country, and suggesting that two Government steamers capable of conveying from 500 to 700 tons each, should be sent for this purpose, the one to New York and the other to New Orleans.

And state that it appears to my Lords, that it would be a preferable course that the members of the Society of Friends in the United States, who propose to give this charitable assistance to the destitute poor in Ireland, should themselves hire suitable vessels for the conveyance of the corn and meal, and on proof being furnished that the cargoes in question will be duly appropriated to the object above adverted to, their Lordships will be prepared to repay the charges which may have been incurred for their conveyance from America.

Captain O'BRIEN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 11, 1847.

ON the 27th of last month I wrote to you on some subjects which had been brought under my notice during my progress from Dublin to Clare. Since then, being required by the Commissioners to examine into certain matters connected with the Waterford and Limerick Railway (who are desirous of giving employment to the destitute on their works, when they can do so), and afterwards to inquire into allegations against one of the Board's officers stationed at Macroom, I have visited Waterford, Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, where I had the advantage of a long conversation with my friend Colonel Douglas, Cahir, where I remained two days, Cork, Cove, and Macroom, returning to Dublin yesterday, having been away ten days.

My inquiries and observations have very much confirmed the opinions I had then formed, especially as to the employment of field-labour, and to the quantity of land brought under cultivation. It appeared to me then that much misconception existed in this respect, that the statements to the effect that the farmers were suffering loss in consequence of the labourers flocking to the Public Works, were unfounded; and that the land was being neglected, in respect of tillage, was a mistake. I mentioned that I had been informed, by good authority, that sowing wheat was going on as usual. On this particular head I have been minute in my inquiries. At Carrick I was told by a Mr. Haydon, who is solicitor to the Waterford and Limerick Railway, and whose father is a farmer holding 500 acres of land, that in his neighbourhood rather more wheat had been sown than in former years, and in this way: the large farmers sowed wheat very extensively; the small farmers did not; but the average was, in his belief, more than that of former years. A Mr. Mulcahy, a gentleman farmer holding land under Lord Glengal, near Ardaraun, in the county of Tipperary, stated to me that full three times the

usual quantity would be sown in his neighbourhood this winter. He said that a great deal was already in the ground: sowing was going on still, and would do so for some time yet, notwithstanding the lateness of the season; and that, for his part, he would almost as soon sow wheat late as early, because the best crop he ever had (and he mentioned the yield per acre) was not put into the ground till 20 days after Christmas. At Cork, I read in the "Cork Constitution" newspaper of January 5th, a statement made at a public meeting by a Mr. Roche, that "a great extent of wheat was sown in every part of the country;" and by a Mr. Dunscombe, that "in the barony of Barretts (in the county of Cork), the quantity of wheat sown this year was three times the quantity sown in former years. On my way between Cork and Macroom, I passed through this very barony, and from what I heard and saw there, I believe Mr. Dunscombe (who, by-the-by, is a gentleman, I am told, of perfect respectability), was correct. At Macroom, I learnt that the same, or nearly so, was the case in the baronies of East and West Muskerry. In the first, eight miles out of Clogheen, in the county of Tipperary, towards Dublin, I counted from the inside of the coach, my view being necessarily very limited, ten sets of ploughs at work in fields by the road side. Besides all this, in the prosecution of my inquiries, I have received no statement to the contrary. Remembering then that the time is not yet arrived for sowing oats, barley, or potatoes (and of the potatoes, more hereafter), and that turf-cutting is a summer occupation, I am bound to conclude, though contrary to preconceived opinions, that, in the districts which I have visited, there is fully as much field-labour going on as usual, and that there is, up to this time, more than the usual preparations being made, to supply, in the coming harvest, the loss of food which has been sustained by the failure of the potatoes.

Whether this be universally the case, I cannot say. I confine myself strictly to the districts I have visited. Elsewhere the tillage may be neglected. It is a fact which may be ascertained through the machinery of the police or the Poor Law Guardians. But, for my own part, I entertain strong doubts that the reports which have appeared, as to the general neglect of the land up to this time, are true.

Where labour is fallen off is among the farmers' servants. These have been turned away in numbers, and they have, naturally, flocked to the Public Works for their support. The farmers, instead of only superintending the labours of their servants, and the farmer's sons, instead of idling, are forced to do the farm work, such as tending horses and cattle, ploughing, &c., themselves.

As I stated in my former letter, the real difficulty will be felt when the Lent corn comes to be sown; and I fear that it will be more in respect of want of seed than even in procuring labour. The poor people have long abstained, and are endeavouring to abstain from using their corn for food, under the pressure of immediate hunger. But deep inroads are being made on their store. Mr. Mulcahy, whose name I have already mentioned, said, he was sure that about him, every grain of corn would be consumed by May-day.

I have alluded to the setting of potatoes. Until within the last very few days, I had been under the impression that nothing of this kind would be attempted; and even now I am doubtful on the matter. At Cove, however, I was told that many persons on the island had preserved sound potatoes for seed. At Macroom, I learnt from an intelligent overseer of the Public Works, who was in the habit of mixing with the people, that most of the farmers about there, had seed, and would sow it when the right time came. On the other hand a Mr. Barry, a Roman Catholic clergyman at Macroom, whom I questioned on the subject, said that such was not the case generally; that a few might have potatoes for seed, but even these were being driven to consume their store to satisfy immediate hunger.

Commander HILL to Sir R. ROUTIL.

Limerick, January 15, 1847.

I HAVE taken the opportunity of meeting the City of Limerick Relief Committee to-day. Thomas Wallnutt, Esq., mayor, in the chair, Mr. E. Costello, secretary and treasurer.

The Committee have continued their meetings without intermission from last season.

Since the 15th of August, local subscriptions were	
made, amounting to	£500
Donation from Government	250
Additional local subscriptions	1,250
	£2,000
Paid for meal	£6,559

At present there is no cash in hand, but 104 tons of meal at 14*l.* per ton.

Loss from selling under cost price, and the expenses attending sale and carriage	£700
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I inquired about the meal valued at 14*l.* per ton, and find that the Committee were fortunate in making a purchase of corn from Vigo about the commencement of December at 12*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* per ton, amounting with extra expenses and grinding to 14*l.* per ton.

I pointed out to the Committee that the price at which the meal is sold should, as nearly as possible, be the same as the market prices.

The chairman and Committee replied that they consider it absolutely necessary to sell below the market price for the safety of the people. The mayor added, that he could not answer for the security of the city one day if they did not sell below the market price. Your letter of the 1st instant signed by Mr. Stanley, addressed to the late mayor, respecting a Government donation of 250*l.* on condition that food is sold at cost price, was placed before me; the difference between cost price and the prevailing current price in the market, created some difficulty.

The Committee having purchased their meal at 14*l.* per ton, are now retailing it at 1*s.* 9*d.* per stone.

A good regulation has been adopted by limiting the sale of meal to indigent families by cards ruled for every day of the week, and adapted for eight weeks. The daily quantity, which is regulated according to the size of the family, is mentioned at the head of the card, and on each day's issue a small hole is cut out of the card representing the day.

Six hundred and five people are now on the Public Works from this Committee, and they are most desirous of obtaining labour for a large number more, who are represented as being destitute.

The distress of the lower class in the city of Limerick does not occur so directly from the failure of the potato crop as in the case of the converse tenant of the rural districts. I took the liberty (with reference to the Public Works not being a permanent measure for the relief of the distressed, and not supposing that funds would always be collected to supply food below the current price) to inquire of the Chairman if any system was likely to be adopted having in view the employment of the labouring class that were now depending on the Public Works, so that they might not become permanent paupers, to be supported by the local rates. The mayor replied that the subject had not been considered, but that it was of importance, and should be brought before a full Committee on a future occasion. The people who are on the Public Works from the city of Limerick are labourers, whose precarious and scanty wages will not afford them food at the present crisis, and a description of tradesmen (weavers in particular) who are at present also suffering both from the depressed state of their trade and the change of food, from the cheap potato to the dearer corn.

This Committee are of opinion that labourers do less on the Public Works than in other employment, and hence arises the preference to the Relief Works; but I have not been able to discover that any other labour has been offered; at the same time, the cause of neglect in cultivation is attributed to the Public Works.

The formation of a dock is likely to be commenced in the spring, and the corporation intend filling in a portion of the river to build a market, provided they can raise funds; these are the only works that I have heard of, unless an embankment round Queen's Island, which has been commenced by the Woods and Forests, but suspended for the last three months, should be again resumed.

The Committee are now busily engaged in establishing soup kitchens in each of the five parishes of the borough; their local subscriptions for this purpose already amount to 570*l.*, and they have promised me it is their intention to adhere to the Government instructions in the sale of the soup, and will apply for a donation equal to their subscriptions.

This market, in point of quantity, is well supplied with bread stuffs, great supplies daily arriving; but Limerick is said to be the highest importing market in Ireland, which the chairman begged particularly to notice.

Captain STOFFORD to Sir R. ROUTH.

Kilkenny, January 17, 1847.

THE Chairman of the Clonmactagh Committee (Mr. Lyster) is a miller in a very extensive way of business; he informed me that he did not think there was more than three months' provision in the country; he is in partnership with Mr. Moss, another extensive miller of Ballyraggett, and who acknowledges to have 30,000*l.* worth of grain in his stores. Mr. Lyster's mill is at Clonmactagh, and he says he could have a much larger stock in store if he felt more secure from attack, both in his mill and when transporting the meal. Both these gentlemen are very liberal, and sell at first cost to the poor.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. BALL.

January 18, 1847.

I LEARN to-day from a letter I have received from Mr. E. Mills, that a fund is being raised by subscription at Taunton and its neighbourhood, and that it is proposed to send a ship load of biscuit, and other provisions, for the relief of the starving multitudes in the north-western districts of Mayo, and I am asked whether the assistance of a Government steamer can be afforded to convey it.

The Government steamers are already fully employed on this service, but if the Committee which is entrusted with carrying out this truly charitable design, will freight a steamer or other vessel from Bristol or elsewhere, and will write me a letter stating their object, and enclosing a certificate of the freight, the amount will be reimbursed to them by Government.

I have written to you direct in order to save the time which would be lost by my communicating with you through the channel through which I was made acquainted with your wish.

As regards the application of this bounty, your Committee cannot do better than to be guided by the advice of Sir R. Routh. The whole of Ireland being organized into Relief Committees, provided with funds derived partly from private subscriptions, and partly from Government donations, it is advisable that your provisions should be sold to the Relief Committees, in order that they may be brought into consumption under their superintendence through the soup kitchens, and other established modes, and that you should employ the sums obtained by you from the sale of your provisions, as well as the produce of subsequent subscriptions, in buying more food, and sending it to Ireland to be disposed of in the same manner. The want in Ireland is not so much money as food.

Mr. BALL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

January 19, 1847.

I HAD to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of yesterday's date in reference to the appropriation of some portion of the funds at the disposal of our Irish Relief Committee, to the purchase of ship biscuit, or other provisions, for the immediate relief of the starving multitudes in the north-western districts of Mayo, but on referring the matter, together with your letter, to my co-treasurer, Mr. H. Badoeck, and to Mr. W. P. Pinchard, one of our secretaries, we were most reluctantly compelled to the conclusion, that the terms of our resolutions would not admit of our diverting the subscriptions out of those channels prescribed at the public meeting.

[c. 2.]

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But we considered your proposal to reimburse the amount of the freight of any vessel we might load for Ireland (with provisions), coupled with the suggestion of *selling* the cargo to the Relief Committees at cost price, so very important, and presenting so strong an inducement to endeavour to meet what you state to be the most pressing *present* need, namely, the supply of *food*, that I have sent copies of your communication to the Relief Committees at Bristol, Exeter, and Bridgewater, in the hope that they may see it in the same light, and unite with us to carry so valuable a plan into immediate effect.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. BALL.

January 20, 1847.

My letter was confined to the payment of the freight of a ship which I supposed it was the intention of the Taunton Committee to send to Ireland laden with provisions, but I have no reason to doubt that the Government would take the same course in respect to any other ships that might be freighted from the west of England for the same object by charitable Committees from the produce of subscriptions raised by them.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

January 22, 1847.

PRAY let us know whether you can assist the London Association with store room to any extent.

The Admiralty have lately adopted the plan of filling every Government vessel bound for Ireland with provisions of some sort, which accounts for the cargo of the "Lively" lighter not having been properly advised to you. This cargo is at your disposal, and I think one or two more have been sent under similar circumstances. In future, we are to have regular bills of lading for all the Admiralty vessels, and these bills will be forwarded to you.

However serious and painful it may be, it is indispensable that the prices at our depôts should keep pace with the Cork prices, which are regulated by the English prices, else mercantile supplies will cease to be sent to, at least, one-half of Ireland; but we will not follow too closely, and we must in no case regulate our prices by the *top* market price at Cork, but by a fair average of a short preceding period. The barley meal is, as you say, too low at 14s.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieut-Colonel JONES.

January 23, 1847.

In your letter to me of the 18th, you write as if you were under the impression that the depôt at Skibbereen is not open for the sale of food, whereas, the fact is, that it has been open for some time past, and considerable sales have been made; and we have, also, another depôt open at Berehaven, in the same district, and orders have been given for establishing a third depôt at Long Island, in the immediate neighbourhood of Skull.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

January 23, 1847.

THERE appears to have been some misunderstanding as to the nature and extent of the responsibility which the Government propose to assume under the new plan of relief. It is not intended that the Government should itself undertake the task of feeding the people through its own officers, but that it should organise the upper and middle classes of society for this purpose, by a combination of the Relief Committees with the Poor Law Guardians, and make such additions to the funds at their disposal as may be required. The Relief Committees of each electoral division will, therefore, be the parties on whom the burthen will fall of obtaining food, and they will have to get it wherever it is to be had—that is, from private dealers both in the eastern and western division of Ireland, while in the western division of Ireland, where we have depôts established, they may, *if necessary*, purchase meal from our depôts.

There is no intention whatever of extending the range of our depôts, which, as has been repeatedly stated, are as numerous as is consistent with safety.

Sir John Burgoyne is to be the head of the Board which will be charged with carrying the new Act into effect, and we must endeavour to give the Board, of which you will be a member, as efficient a staff as possible, who will, I presume, be in the main composed of officers selected from your Inspectors and those of the Board of Works.

I informed you that it might become necessary to assist the Boards of Guardians in particular cases with supplies of meal, for the subsistence of the helpless portion of the community lodged in the Union workhouses, and you stated, in reply, that you were ready to use your best exertions to provide for this contingency if it should occur. You will understand that this is intended to apply to any Union workhouse, either in the eastern or western division of Ireland, which may, in the opinion of the Lord Lieutenant, require such assistance; and so far as regards the eastern division of Ireland, it is an extension of our undertaking to provide direct supplies of food, but it will be limited to the well-defined cases of those Union workhouses which cannot obtain sufficient supplies of meal. It will not be necessary for you to establish additional depôts, in order to meet this new responsibility. The exigency will be most likely to occur in the western division of Ireland, where you already have depôts, and if it occurs in the eastern, you could supply the meal from your stock at Dublin, or direct from Liverpool.

We entirely concur in the sensible practical view which the chairman of the Castle Pollard Relief Committee has taken of the question of selling at cost price. *Meal* must be sold at cost price, else *all classes* of people in Ireland will consume our insufficient stock of food at a rate which it is fearful to contemplate; but when the food is once got into the shape of soup in a public kitchen, where the people must come with their mugs to fetch it, we may safely follow a more indulgent rule, and while those who can pay for it, ought still to be made to pay their penny or halfpenny a quart, it may also be given freely to those who are really distressed.

The London Committee do not want the Ordnance beef; but I shall be obliged to you to send the pork, without delay, to their store at Cork.

Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Sir R. ROUTH.

Skibbereen, January 27, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I yesterday visited the village of Ballydehob, where a Committee has been formed for the distribution of soup to the destitute in East Skull.

This portion of the parish of Skull contains 9000 inhabitants; of whom 1000 are employed upon the roads, and it is estimated that there are at least 7000 in extreme destitution. The farther observation which I have made of these unfortunate people, convinces me that the distress is extreme, greater than at West Skull, as the east part of the parish has not participated in the advantages which the village and neighbourhood of Skull has hitherto derived from a Relief fund and large charitable donations.

There is a small soup establishment at Ballydehob supported by a private fund. The distributions from this establishment will be immediately extended by the aid of the funds I have placed at the disposal of the Committee; and I have urged that a second soup-kitchen should be established, if possible.

At West Skull, the soup-kitchens which were established on my last visit are now in extensive operation, and the Committee is only waiting the arrival of a larger boiler to extend still further the distribution.

I found at Dumanus, about five miles from Skull, a very distressed portion (about 3000) of the population of this parish. These people are so remote from assistance, that I have strongly urged the immediate establishment of a soup-kitchen amongst them. There is but one resident gentleman with these people (at Rock Cottage), who has kindly undertaken to superintend the establishment. The necessary funds and "material" will be furnished by the Skull Soup Committee—the very small subscription raised at Dumanus having been added to the West Skull list.

I have, further, the honour of calling your attention to the parish of Aghadown, in which two soup-kitchens are at present in operation, one at New Court, the other at the Glebe. They are supported by private funds, and have both been conducted with great care and discrimination in relieving the most urgent cases of distress. I have urged that the distribution be extended, and have promised the assistance of the Government; lists of subscriptions will be immediately furnished. In the adjoining parish of Kilcoe great good is doing by an active and admirably arranged soup establishment, which has been in operation since September last. I trust the distribution will be greatly extended by the assistance of the Government aid which I have offered.

My next visit was to Castlehaven, a parish with 6000 inhabitants, in great distress. A well-managed soup-kitchen is at work, and a second in preparation, under the funds which I have promised, on behalf of the Government, to meet subscription lists, which will be furnished immediately. I shall, also, have the honour of transmitting lists from Drimoleague, Drenagh, &c., in aid of similar establishments.

At Ballydehob there is a ladies' association, doing much good, at a great personal sacrifice and upon a very limited fund. These ladies visit the cabins where the worst cases of fever and sickness prevail, and by a judicious distribution of nourishment and clothing, have doubtless, under Providence, been instrumental in saving many lives. Any small assistance which can be afforded to this association will, I am satisfied, be carefully and beneficially disposed of, and, perhaps, act as an encouragement for the more general formation of such societies, which may, by their example, do much good in the present moment of affliction; for the instant fever appears in a cabin, the neglect is fearful; the nearest relatives of the parties attacked cannot, by any persuasion, be induced to afford the sufferer any assistance: this is the chief cause of so many deaths remaining unknown for many days after they occur.

At Skull, Crookhaven, and Ballydehob, also at Castlehaven, I found that material for spinning and knitting might be distributed amongst the unemployed females, with much greater benefit than I had been led to expect.

In the parts of the country which I have visited during the past week, I perceive the same total absence of all agricultural preparation. If seed could be furnished at this, the eleventh hour, great good would result; though the extreme, and unparalleled measure must be resorted to, of paying the labourer to till his own land.

The following is a list of the soup-kitchens in West Carbery, Bantry, and Bear:—

Skibbereen	1
Baltimore, Shirkin, and Clear . . .	3
Creeagh	1
Castlehaven	2
Union Hall	1
Aghadown	2
Kilcoe	1
Skull	2
Dunmanus	1
Crookhaven	2
Cahiragh	2
Durrus	1
Drimoleague	1
Drenagh (proposed)	1
Bantry	1
Glengarriff	1
Adrigole	1
Castletown (Berehaven)	1
Ballydehob	1
Total	<u>26</u>

It cannot, however, be too carefully borne in mind, that great and unquestionable as the benefits are which the numerous soup-kitchens bestow, it is but as a "drop in the ocean." Hundreds are relieved, but thousands still want.

The vessel intended for the floating dépôt at Long Island Sound left Castle-town, where she had been weather-bound, this morning. As it is a small vessel, she will lay with more convenience in Skull Harbour, at least till the road which is now forming to the strand at Long Island Sound is completed.

Lieut.-Colonel DOUGLAS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Claonnel, January 28, 1847.

I. For the information of the Treasury, I have the honour to acquaint you that, on Tuesday the 26th instant, I visited the Relief Committee of Carrickbeg, county of Waterford.

This district comprises the parishes of Kilmonan	3,113
Finnough	1,164
Dysart	1,406
Total	5,683
To this the Secretary would add 3050 inhabitants for the town of Carrickbeg	3,050
	8,733

2. The Committee appears to be engaged solely in the charge of the town district; the rural parishes are entrusted to the care of a country gentleman, who supplies the names of all the persons for the Public Works, but not one of these is inserted in the Committee's Register. They may be deserving objects, but there is no scrutiny into their claims. Captain Hill, inspecting officer of the Board of Works, who attended the Committee with me, will in time set all this to rights, if it is in the power of any individual to do so.

3. We went, name by name, over the new applicants whom it was proposed to put on the lists for some new works about to be opened. We rejected one or two; and, I believe, that the rest are objects for public employment.

4. There exists a most painful amount of misery and destitution at Carrickbeg. I went round a great many of the poorest hovels in the place, and I can, most conscientiously, recommend this miserable town to your liberal consideration, in recommending the amount of donation from Government. The subscription list will be sent to you in a few days.

5. There is a soup-kitchen here, but the workhouse being full, (220 applicants were refused admittance on Saturday the 19th inst.); there is a great run on the two soup establishments, one on either side of the river: in fact, too great a demand for their means.

Carrickbeg Soup Society issued last week,

Gratuitously, quarts of soup, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of bread	660
$\frac{2}{3}$ For cash, sold by tickets to the poor	275
$\frac{1}{3}$ Tickets sold to be given in charity	277
Total rations	1,112
Total cost	10 5 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Receipts	2 3 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total loss	£8 1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

6. Could the funds be increased, the operations would be much extended, so as to reach the destitute who reside in the more distant parts of the country district. They might take home with them a supply of two or three days rations.

The Committee have endeavoured to recruit their funds by an appeal to the non-resident and resident landlords, to whom the enclosed circular was sent. This appeal has hitherto not been attended with good success, but I have reas-

Despatch by Sir R. ROUTH.

This locality has been suffered. A sum of £200 has been forwarded to the Committee, from the proceeds of a private subscription, and a liberal grant made to it.

sured the Committee, telling them that, of course, the proprietors have reserved themselves for a great effort to be made at the moment of the greatest distress.

The clergy are engaged in making collections from their flock in all parts of the district.

The funds amount to the undermentioned sum :

	£.	s.	d.
From Central Relief Association of Ireland	50	0	0
Lord Spencer's subscription	50	0	0
Government donation on above	75	0	0
Balance of local subscriptions since December last, which amounted to 108 <i>l.</i>	27	10	0
Total	202	10	0

7. I was informed by the clergy who were present in Committee, that fever is increasing, and dysentery very prevalent.

I believe the Soup Society here to be admirably managed. The ladies take it in turn to attend, and make a daily report to the Committee.

8. There is also a Needle-work Society here, which has done much good ; unhappily their funds are now exhausted.

Were it possible to procure from any of the public charities some funds to enable this Society to purchase flannel, &c., which could be manufactured by hand-looms in this wretched place, the poor workwomen might be paid by issues of soup and bread from the Relief Committee, and thus much good might be effected. I recommend the place to your earnest consideration.

ENCLOSURE

CARRICKBEG RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Carrick-on-Shock, 1847.

As the funds collected in Carrickbeg, for the relief of the poor, are totally inadequate to meet the destitution, which is increasing to a fearful degree, I am instructed by the Relief Committee of Carrickbeg, to solicit your subscription in aid of the funds, and to express an earnest hope, that, when you consider the fact of 452 destitute families, consisting of 2373 individuals, being in Carrickbeg, among whom there are 278 widows, orphans, and infirm, totally destitute, this appeal, on their behalf, will meet with a favourable reception.

Population of Carrickbeg 3050, exclusive of the rural districts.

Lieut.-Colonel DOUGLAS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Clonmel, January 28, 1847.

1. I YESTERDAY attended the Relief Committee of Mullinahone, barony of Sleivardagh, county of Tipperary, and a most badly managed, useless, affair it is. But, what can be expected, when the only persons in the whole district who are present to attend it to its affairs, are one landed proprietor, two Protestant clergymen, and the Roman Catholic clergyman, assisted in Committee by one or two benevolent shopkeepers? The farmers, themselves not rich, are here attempting to fill the places of the owners of the soil; they cannot perform their duties.

2. The district of Mullinahone comprises:—

	Souls.
Parish Kilvemaon	4,983
Half do. Lesimalin	809
" Isertkernan	341
" Modeshill	1,033
" Cloncen	500
Total	7,666

There are on the works 1200 persons, and if this system continue another month, everybody in the district will stand a good chance of being so. The whole thing is in the most inextricable confusion. The claimants of the immediate vicinity of Mullinahone village are duly registered, and passed by the Committee. But, in the more distant parts, and more particularly from the wretched popu-

lation inhabiting the property of Mr. Stevens, the people have been, it appears to me, without any authority, just packed in fifties upon the Public Works.

I have thus endeavoured to deal with this state of things.

3. I called upon the chairman to dismiss everybody from the room who did not belong to the Committee. I must here remark, that I have never yet been able to obtain the Lord Lieutenant of the County's letters, constituting the Committees, and, I doubt not, that through the country, the Committees are, in fact, self constituted in general.

4. We called before us three new applicants for work, who had been recommended by the agent of a neighbouring property, and after examination, I positively refused to admit them upon the labour lists. There were no more applicants in attendance, and I called upon the Committee not to recommend any who did not appear before them.

5. I found, upon inquiry, that there are hundreds of persons in this district now on the works, whose names are not entered upon the Committee's registry.

6. I obtained some of the lists of the persons at work on new lines of road. That marked No. 1, which I enclose, is not signed by a single member of the Committee. There is no proper authority for these men being employed. I gave positive orders to the check-clerk to refuse to pass the names for payment after the next settlement, of the individuals marked with a red cross. There are, I am told, as many as four and five in some families upon the works.

The list marked No. 2, which I enclose, was handed to me by a steward, as that of the labourers under his superintendence. There is not a record of any sort in regard to the authority for employing these individuals. The only documents in which they appear, are in the check-book and pay-sheets.

7. I have told the Relief Committee that, unless I find things in order at my next visit, I shall call upon the inspecting officer of the Board of Works to stop the works, until due order be established. I called upon the Committee to proceed with this at once, to erase from the lists all above a fair number of persons from each family, and to reject all applications which will not bear the test of open scrutiny in Committee.

I shall, at the first possible moment, see the inspecting officer of the Board of Works, and describe to him the true state of matters here.

8. The only excuse I can offer for this state of things is, that the old presentments for this barony were allowed to be expended before a new sessions was held. The people were almost all out of work, and the preservation of the public peace demanded their instant employment upon certain new lines of road.

9. And now, Sir, having described to you the state of matters here, and the remedy I have endeavoured to apply, I will candidly tell you, that I do not expect matters will much improve. There is not in this large district the materials of forming a good Committee. It is impossible to conduct properly the public business of a rural district which contains a population of 7666 souls, and of which the acreable contents amount to 10,970 acres, without the aid and the moral influences of those who are responsible for, and who ought, either personally or by representation, to be engaged in preventing abuses, and the wasteful expenditure of the public rates and assessments. Such a task is far beyond the powers of the two landed proprietors, who attend to the affairs of this Relief District, the Rev. W. Bryan, J. P., and Mr. Despard, both of whom appear to be anxiously disposed to do their best. How can it be expected that the tenant and labourer should feel much compunction in striving to obtain a share of the public money, which is voted in despair, and expended without order, in a way worse than useless?

In the neighbourhood of Mullinabone, I witnessed the daily painful sight of the perversion of the labour of this country to the most profitless ends. Roads which are now more than ever necessary to be kept in order, are in the course of obstruction, whilst water logged lands, reclaimable bottoms, and mountain slopes, stand out in damning evidence of the indolence, neglect, and folly of man.

I have this moment heard, that the secretary of the Mullinabone Committee has been called upon, most properly, to give up this situation, having been named check-clerk under the Board of Works; where another secretary is to go, I know not; if, from the village of Mullinabone, I foresee pretty well what will be the consequence.

This fact brings me to the subject of the 12th paragraph of your letter of

the 16th instant, which calls "my particular attention to the formation of Committees."

With reference to this, I beg to refer to a circular letter dated January 20, 1847, the last paragraph of which, objects to the payment of secretaries where relief funds have not been formed.

My decided opinion is, that in most places, more particularly in those where relief funds are not formed: it is absolutely necessary to have paid, *and well paid*, secretaries; without this the public money will be wasted, gross imposition will be practised by the claimants for work, and everything will continue in the confusion portrayed in the commencement of this letter. A system, which is monthly expending thousands and thousands of pounds, is useless, from declining to expend a few hundreds. It would be a *great economy* to pay the secretaries. I am quite prepared to give my reasons for this assertion, and I think I can prove most clearly its practical utility.

Lieut-Colonel DOUGLAS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Clonmel, January 28, 1847.

1. I AM in hopes that a soup-kitchen may be established in Mullinahone. Considering the extent of the district and the few resident proprietors, I think this place is one of those remote districts which ought to be considered more with reference to the amount of destitution than to the sum subscribed, and I beg to recommend it to you accordingly, for the liberal consideration of the Government, in assigning to it a donation.

2. The present funds at the disposal of this Committee amount to 47*l*. I have backed their application to the Central Relief Committee in Dublin for aid.

3. The Committee have hitherto given aid *in money* to the infirm, aged, and helpless. I have told them to put a stop to this. A benevolent shopkeeper, Mr. Kichham, has lent a house gratis, for three months, for a kitchen.

4. Another person has lent a boiler. The parish priest, the Rev. Mr. Corcoran, is engaged in collecting subscriptions from his flock; in a day or two a statement of the subscriptions will be forwarded to you for a donation from Government. The Committee are anxious to establish a soup-kitchen. I have done my best to explain to them the best mode of conducting the affairs. But their funds will fall miserably short of their necessities.

5. The chairman assured me that the proprietors are very backward in giving their aid. I have advised him to make another appeal to them, and I expressed my firm conviction that they would subscribe liberally, to secure the donation of Government. I have asked privately for a list of those proprietors, and their actual habitations. I shall write to them myself to implore their aid, and you may depend upon my couching my letter in most respectful and unexceptionable terms.

I hope that with the Government aid, this remote district will be very soon in possession of one of these useful establishments.

Captain BELLEW to Sir R. ROUTH.

Roscommon, January 28, 1847.

1. In conformity with your instructions, I proceeded yesterday to the barony of Ballymoe, from whence I returned this evening to Roscommon.

2. As I found that the meeting at Ballintubber (of which Committee Mr. P. O'Connor is Chairman) was not to take place until this morning at 12 o'clock, I employed myself yesterday in inquiring into the state of the people in and about the town of Ballymoe, as also in visiting Castlereagh, where I hoped to have seen Captain Burmester, and Mr. Wills, the Chairman of the Castlereagh Committee, but they were both unfortunately absent in the district.

3. I am happy to be able to state that the Committee at Castlereagh are making great exertions to get up an efficient soup kitchen; they have an excellent place for it, with a good store house and boiler, and will commence in a day or two to issue a large quantity of soup to the suffering multitudes with which the place abounds.

4. They intend to confine the issue to the inhabitants of the town and a small space around it; consequently, the people of the more remote parts, who are in a state of still greater destitution, must have relief administered to them in some other form, for there are many objections to their coming for it from a distance.

5. The accompanying letter, forwarded to me by Captain Burmester, will show the deplorable condition of the people of Castle Plunkett (a part of the Castlereagh district), a place notorious at all times for the numbers of its miserably pauperised inhabitants.

6. I have by letter (as I was unable to see him) earnestly requested Mr. Wills to appropriate some portion of the present funds of the Committee to the immediate relief of the most destitute among these starving and unfortunate creatures, and for some, I hope, work will be found; and I beg leave to recommend that something in excess of the usual (equal) donation should be given to the Castlereagh Fund, in order that a better provision may be made for the extraordinary destitution prevailing in this section of the district.

7. I am rejoiced to state, that a considerable fall in the price of oats took place in the Castlereagh market yesterday, and other things are coming down; this, with the news of similar reductions in Longford and elsewhere, have had a cheering influence on the public mind, before greatly depressed.

8. I attended the Ballintubber Committee meeting this morning, which sat from 12 o'clock till 3, and my communications with the gentlemen comprising it fully tended to confirm my previous impressions respecting the state of the district, as formed from hearsay and observation. It is scarcely possible that any place could be in a more deplorable condition.

9. At present there is no work, though some is expected; as about 1200*l.* of roads and drainage have been applied for; and there is the greatest scarcity of food, united with almost total destitution (of which I saw numerous shocking cases), and the usual concomitant, fast-spreading disease. The most prevalent complaints are fever and dysentery, but very many are dying from actual want.

10. The funds of this Committee have been greatly reduced, in consequence of their having sold meal below the cost price; but they will explain the reasons for this when they forward their list of subscriptions. It is my opinion, that in no case could an enlarged donation be better bestowed than with a view to lessen the destitution of this district.

11. I herewith transmit two more of the forms of the British Association, to which I have attached a few remarks.

12. I am much fatigued with a long day's journey and occupation, which I hope will plead my excuse for any inaccuracies or omissions in this letter. To-morrow I visit some districts near Athlone.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HENDERSON to Sub-Inspector CARR.

Castle Plunkett, January 24, 1847.

As I understand you are a member of the Relief Committee, I consider it my duty to call your attention to the distressed state of the poor in this neighbourhood, many of whom are dying principally for want of food. And some of these wretched creatures have to be interred without coffins; for instance, Catherine Carroll, of this town; also, the Widow Reany had to keep her son, 17 years of age, in the house four days after dying of starvation, she being unable to procure a coffin: and while writing this, I have been informed, which is a fact, that the same Widow Reany died this morning of starvation.

And on the 22nd instant, two paupers died in this locality, while travelling from door to door, looking for food; and I believe that these must be also interred without coffins. These distressing scenes are of daily occurrence; and numberless applications are made at this season by the starving poor for food, and money to get the dead interred; and, as yet, I see no steps taken to meet the calamity; in short, it would be impossible to detail the distress of the poor at this moment. Should you think it consistent, it might be well to bring those matters under the consideration of the Relief Committee, in order that some funds may be placed in the hands of a proper person to afford at least those creatures the form of Christian burial. If steps are not taken to give in-door relief to the people, the greater part of them must inevitably perish. And in my humble opinion, nothing could meet the point better than to establish Sub-Committees in each locality, with the means of affording relief to such as are actually in want, &c.

The next thing I would call your attention to is the Public Works. Lately, they have been of little use to the poor here, in consequence of the strict limitation observed in giving the

[c. 2.]

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employment; for instance, one person out of a house, having, perhaps, eight in family, must be badly able to support that number on 8d. per day; in fact, under present circumstances, every person able to work should be at this moment employed, in order to keep them from starving (but in this how does the case stand). I speak from observation. When many of those persons who are in a state of want and hunger will apply to be admitted into work, they will be told by the stewards that their names are not on their lists, and consequently cannot be employed. Then they are directed to go to Castlema, or to some neighbouring gentleman, to get tickets; and in this they are frequently disappointed, from several causes, and after idling in the week, endeavouring to be admitted into work, they generally fail in obtaining it. It does appear that much apathy is shown on this subject, which, under present circumstances, requires the most particular attention, as regards the present distressed state of the country.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 27, 1847.

I HEAR the best reports of the parish priest in the island of Arran. It is very true, that one or two examples have occurred, in which a priest has been suspected or proved to have been guilty of malversation; but it is very rare. The greater part by far are behaving most liberally, and most meritoriously, and in close conjunction with the Protestant rectors.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, January 27, 1847.

In some instances lately, the Association have sent sums to parties to whom we have just given a large donation upon a subscription, and though this is not a reason for withholding their grant as a further relief to their distress, it may be sufficient to raise a doubt of the necessity of our adding a similar amount to it. In what light do you view this.

I never send down the Government grant at the same time with that of the Association, but remit theirs alone, desiring the parties to send up a subscription list including the amount, and any further sums they can raise, for the Government grant, which then passes through the usual channel of the Lord-Lieutenant's warrant, and keeps it distinct and regular as a matter of account.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

January 29, 1847.

I SEE no objection to the course adopted by you, in making additions to the donations of the London Association.

When the Association make a grant through you, without your having suggested or recommended it, we are under no obligation to make an addition to it, although, of course, it is perfectly open to us to do so if we think proper.

When, however, the Committee's grant is made at our suggestion, or is made by you, without previously consulting them, under the discretionary authority which they have vested in you, it is obligatory upon us to give an equal sum, and the only discretion we have it in our power to exercise in this class of cases is in regard to the time and manner of giving, on which point I have no improvement to suggest upon the course already pursued by you of remitting at first the Committee's grant, and desiring the parties to send up a subscription list including this grant, and any further sums they can raise for a Government grant.

I have no doubt that you have impressed upon Mr. Bishop, that he should never give the form of application for relief from the British Association, except in the worst cases of distress, and that in sending them to you filled up, he should furnish a detailed report of the grounds of his recommendation.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, January 30, 1847.

Mr. ERICSEN has purchased, and sent on board the "Tartarus" 12 large boilers, besides which, that vessel will take on board the full complement of 100 naval boilers, and after filling up with as much food (rice and peas) as she can take, she will proceed to Cork to receive your orders.

The "Tartarus" will leave the river on Monday, and I am not certain whe-

ther she has the whole number of 100 Admiralty boilers on board, or whether she still has to call at Portsmouth and Plymouth for 50 of them.

I think the latter; but, at any rate, you cannot too soon take measures to ascertain at what places on the southern and western coasts of Ireland, it will be advisable to leave these boilers. The "Tartarus" may be ordered to any quarter where they are required.

When this business is completed, you must furnish us with a distinct report of the mode in which they are appropriated.

I will endeavour to procure you a complete statement of the number and size of the boilers on board this vessel.

You will see, from the enclosed copy of the answer which Mr. Erichsen received from Liverpool, that we may procure a large number of boilers from thence, and I shall be obliged to you to inform me by return of post, what order you wish me to give.

You will observe the allusion to the cost of fitting up the boilers, which, if it be necessary, must be left to be done by the Relief Committees at their own expense.

Meanwhile, the Admiralty are making new boilers at Woolwich, as fast as they can.

We are anxious for a Report on the distressed districts of Mayo; and we rely upon Mr. Adams, and the other officers employed, organizing these districts in Relief Committees and soup kitchens, as Captain Mann has done Clare, and Mr. Bishop, Skibbereen. Why does not Mr. Bishop make the round of the whole county of Cork, and report upon each Relief District, stimulating the Committees, and establishing soup kitchens?

Lieutenant-Colonel DOUGLAS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Clevedon, January 27, 1847.

I HAVE just returned from a most fatiguing day's work, both from the business I have done, and the roads I have waded through.

The first letters I opened on my return were from two proprietors of land in the destitute or *deserted* barony of Glenahing, County Waterford. These two letters contained an order for the sum of 15*l.* for the establishment of a soup kitchen. This, with the Government donation, will make 30*l.* This sum will, according to the usual cost of a ration of soup and bread (one quart of soup at 1½*d.* and 1*d.* bread), save 1440 persons from starvation during one day, or 48 in a month; multiply this by the number of districts in all Ireland, and see what the small donations of only two persons in each district would effect. The time is come when every individual must make a sacrifice to the last farthing to meet the legitimate claims of the poor. I enclose for your perusal a copy of the letter I addressed to some noble Lords who have property in Glenahing barony, and I shall continue this plan.

ENCLOSURE.

Lieutenant-Colonel DOUGLAS to Lord ———

To save the delays which occur in addressing a principal through an intermediate agent, and knowing the vital importance of every day in the task in which I am engaged, I address myself direct to your Lordship.

I am employed under Her Majesty's Treasury as an Inspecting Officer of the County of Waterford and Tipperary.

The barony of Glenahing, in which your Lordship has some property, is at this moment without a single resident proprietor or representing agent. The greatest destitution prevails; the really destitute are now living upon turnips, and these in insufficient quantities.

I am desirous of carrying out the views of Her Majesty's Government in establishing soup kitchens; this can only be done by local subscriptions, to which Government will grant a donation of like amount.

I implore you, my Lord, to extend still further your benevolence to this miserable population. On Friday next I purpose attending the Relief Committee of Glenahing, to press upon all classes above indigency their duties in aiding this work of charity. I apprehend that my efforts will not be very successful, unless a good example be set. The high example of your Lordship would be sure to prove eminently useful. I beseech your Lordship's aid and contributions, however small; and I entreat you to notify this to the chairman, Edmund Muleshy,

Esq., Ballymacree, Clossenel, so that he may receive it before Friday next, when your Lordship's communication and subscription will be productive of the most important results to the wretched population of Glenahag. Soup kitchens are the best means of meeting the existing misery, and of economizing grain and bread stuff, by bringing meat into consumption.

Lieutenant-Colonel DOUGLAS to Mr. TRAVELMAN.

Clossenel, January 30, 1847.

I AM very anxious about the soup kitchens of Glenahag, County Waterford. It is preparing this mountain population for new habits and modes of living which has made me so busy in this locality.

I find that the pauper tenants of Colonel Greene swamp the whole place with an amount of destitution very difficult to encounter.

I was struck with a remark of yours of what is the real amount of a proprietor's possessions—viz., the surplus which shall remain after the payment of all debts and the performance of all duties.

How, then, can the performance of the duties consist with the possession of a property which is in the hands of the receivers of the Court of Chancery? How are we to get the Courts of Law to contribute to these charitable institutions, the soup shops? Applications have been made to the Courts, I am given to understand, but without effect. Some way should be pointed out by Government to facilitate the discharge of these legitimate claims upon property.

I assure you I was going to write to you on this subject; I have, however, been stimulated to do so by the result of a conversation I have this day held with the agent (Mr. Coates) of Lord Stradbroke, to whom I wrote to implore aid to the Soup Society of Glenahag.

The main objection advanced by Mr. Coates against a donation to this charity was, that Lord Stradbroke's tenantry are well cared for, and that his Lordship's money would go towards relieving the pauper tenants of other proprietors. He (Mr. Coates) complained bitterly of the injustice of the Courts receiving the rents, and not contributing in a fair proportion towards the wants of the paupers, whose condition is owing to the misrule and vicious indulgences of the nominal owner of the estate. I cannot see how property can be relieved from the moral obligations which devolve upon all above indigency in such a crisis as this. Really the Courts should look to this. Mr. Coates will, however, contribute over and above providing for Lord Stradbroke's poor.

I should be sorry to harass or fatigue you with any useless suggestions, but I feel I am writing to a man who is deeply, solemnly impressed with a sense of the necessity of doing everything to raise the drooping spirit, and to advance the moral condition of this people.

I know I am travelling out of my record. I am instructed to report officially on certain subjects, but I must open my heart to you.

I tremble for the fate of the rising generation in this country. Misery has so worked upon this people, that, consumed by one only thought—that of food, they abstain from their old church-going habits. Shame of appearing in bad clothes operates greatly in this; but, alas! the children no longer attend the schools in many places, and demoralization is, I fear, advancing at the same rate as destitution. I have spoken to some people about this, and I really believe that the proposed extension of the Poor-laws may be made to accomplish the double object of feeding destitute children, and at the same time of instructing them. The children would go to school *if fed*; and I have been assured by a gentleman, who takes a very active part as a Poor-law guardian, that such a united system of feeding and teaching would be a great economy; for if children were thus looked after, their parents would not so much throng the workhouses. The moral objection of withdrawing children from the superintendence of the parent, does not hold good where the parents give no superintendence. The rising generation are left to wander about in idleness, living, in fact, on the public charity, and it were much better that the public charity should be well bestowed. If you think my opinion or suggestions would be of any use to you upon this matter very near my heart, I would in a few days be able to give anybody my own opinion and those of others, together with a financial statement of the probable cost, in a short paper, not too long

for you to cast your eye over. Whether my views be good or bad, I believe that the subject itself merits the consideration of everybody who could advance this good cause.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieut-Col. DOUGLAS.

February 1, 1847.

We deeply sympathise with you and other officers who daily have to witness scenes of heartrending misery without being able to give effectual relief; but, as justly observed by you, we must do all we can, and leave the rest to God.

A circular was issued long ago, by the Court of Chancery in Ireland, stating that sums would be contributed to Relief Committees from the rents of estates under the management of the Court, and you should make a list of the cases in your district, in which you think such contributions should be made, and send them to Sir Randolph Routh, who will see that attention is called to them in the proper quarter. You might send a list at once of the cases in which you are confident that sums should be allowed, whether the estates are under the management of the Court of Chancery, or of any other Court, suggesting the amounts which you think should be given with reference to the contributions of private persons, and after that you might make further representations from time to time, as the occasion might require.

Pray send me a separate letter giving me full details of your plan in regard to the children of destitute families, in order that I may lay it before the Committees of the private funds, to whose operations it seems to be best adapted.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. JONES LOYD.

February 1, 1847.

I SEND to day various documents bearing upon subjects already under the consideration of your Commission.

The only new suggestion I have to make is, that it would be a great act of charity, not only to the people themselves, but to our officers, who often have to witness the dreadful distress of the people without being able to afford them any immediate relief, if you would place at the absolute disposal of such of our Inspecting Officers as you have entire confidence in, moderate sums of money (say 100*l.* at a time), to be employed by them entirely at their discretion, independently of all the other more regular means of relief, which are dependent upon the previous sanction of Sir R. Routh or of your Committee, and the correspondence relating to which passes through Sir R. Routh. And the officers to whom such limited remittances might be made, might be instructed to make donations from them when practicable, on the condition, that an equal or larger sum is given by other people; and a renewal of the credit or remittance might be made dependent upon an account being furnished of the last which was made.

The descriptions our officers give of the effect upon their own feelings of the scenes they are obliged to witness are most harrowing. One writes that he "can bear anything but the careless misery of the children;" another, that he meets women and children returning home sobbing at the insufficient quantity of food they have been able to procure with the wages of their fathers and husbands; and almost all, that nothing but a sense of duty would induce them to go through what they endure; that no money can make up to them for it; and that it is seriously affecting their health and spirits.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBBIE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Sligo, January 29, 1847.

I REG leave to enclose you a Return of Issues on account of Government relief in the County of Donegal.

In conformity with the principle laid down in the Treasury Minute of the 30th September, I have made no issues from the depôts at Sligo to the Com-

mittees in Sligo, Roscommon, and Leitrim, since the 5th November, from which date up to the present time, there has been always in this market a supply of breadstuffs of some kind or other adequate to the demands from the country. There is now a fortnight's supply in the place, and large expectations for account of the trade, with the continuation of which state of things I shall be cautious that no measures of mine shall interfere. The drift of the Committees is to establish, that if there is no *Indian* meal in the market, the Government depôts should be opened; but the admission of such a principle would be most pernicious, inasmuch as it might prevent the introduction of the *cheap* cereals, which is so desirable.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT OF INDIAN CORN, EGYPTIAN WHEATMEAL, and BISCUIT issued direct to the Relief Committees and to the poor through the Coast Guard, "along the great line of coast from the Bay of Donegal towards Derry," between the 1st October, 1846, and the 23rd January, 1847.

	TONS OF			
	Indian Meal.	Indian Corn.	Egyptian Wheatmeal.	Biscuit.
In the month of October, 1846 . . .	98	..	..	11
" November, " . . .	8	..	..	..
" December, " . . .	55½	..	..	..
" January, 1847 . . .	106	32	8½	..
Total . . .	267½	32	8½	11

Through the medium of the following Relief Committees:—		204½ Tons of Indian Meal.
Penuig, Glenties, Inver, Killibegs and Killybegs, Kilow and Glenties, Inishkeel and Glenties, Dungloe, Gweedore, Croesnaught, and Dunfinghy.		32 " Indian Corn.
		8½ " Egyptian Wheatmeal.
		7 " Biscuit.
Direct to the poor in small quantities through the Coast Guard at—		53 Tons of Indian Meal.
Killibegs, Ardara, Lochrus, Rutland, and Gweedore.		4 " Biscuit.

Deputy Commissary-General's Office,
Sligo, January 26, 18

SAMUEL DOBREE,
Deputy Commissary-General.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELLAN.

Sligo, January 29, 1847.

In addition to the information I have sent you regarding our issues to the County of Donegal, I beg to enclose you a return of the supplies this week in the hands of the trade here, available for that part of my district—say, the counties of Sligo, Roscommon, and Leitrim—which would look to this depôt for subsistence when it was not to be procured from the ordinary sources.

I may observe that the Sligo depôt was opened in the month of July last, to the counties above alluded to, and was never closed to them till the 5th of November last, when, having fully ascertained that not only was the trade in a position to supply the immediate wants of the part of the country drawing its subsistence from this port, but that it would derive a great stimulus and much confidence by seeing the pledge of Government faithfully carried out, I determined on suspending all Government sales from this depôt, so long as I should be able to satisfy myself from day to day that the supply in our market was adequate to the demand; and I turned my attention to the obligation of amassing all my consignments for future emergencies, and for the subsistence of that portion of my district not accessible to the trade.

All my expectations have been fully realized, and the market of Sligo has never since the 5th of November been without a supply of "breadstuffs" adequate to the demand; but to the Committees on the coast of Donegal, from "Inver" in the bay to "Dunfinghy" in the north, our depôts have never been closed.

There seems to be an impression with the Relief Committees, that if there

is no *Indian* meal in the market, the *casus* is at once established for opening our stores; but I consider that one of the many moral as well as political advantages which result from leaving the subsistence of the people as much as possible in the hands of the trade is, that they import all the different kinds of cheap cereals—beans, peas, &c.—and that it is an object of the greatest importance to make the people of Ireland familiar with every description of cheap food. It is not presumptuous to assert that dire necessity only will induce or compel the Irishman to resort to food he is not accustomed to, and his experience in this respect is within the narrowest limits.

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORANDUM of the different kinds of "BIGGASTUFF" in the hands of the Trade at Sligo, on the 27th January, 1847.

12,000 to 14,000 barrels of American flour, 195 lbs each, with large importations weekly from Liverpool by the steamer.

600 to 1000 tons of wheat to grind into whole meal.

Several hundred tons of barley and barleymeal.—This article is sold under the name of *rye-meal*,* to meet the people's prejudices.

Two cargoes of buck wheat.

A cargo of *Indian meal*—833 barrels.

Three cargoes of *Indian corn*, of about 943 tons.

Sligo, January 30, 1847.

SAUNDERS DODDIE,
Deputy Commissary-General.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, January 30, 1847.

THE Lord Lieutenant sent for me this morning, to show me the instruction he had received relative to the loan of 50,000*l.* for seed, and he asked me what security I thought it would be best to take for the repayment.

I have not yet given him my opinion on this subject, but I think the only valid security would be the joint bond of the proprietor and occupier.

He wished me to speak to some of the first seedsmen in Dublin, to ascertain, if they would undertake to deliver seed, upon a regular Government order, payable on the production of the receipt of the parties, who would execute the bond before they got the order.

There are a great many seedsmen in Dublin, and I must inquire into their solidity before I sound them on such a subject.

I send you a Report from Assistant Commissary-General Adams, who is on a tour of inspection through the County of Mayo. I am not able to send you to-day, copy of his instructions with respect to the baronies of Galen and Tyrrawley.

The funds raised at Swineford, with the donations, amount to 300*l.*

The funds raised at Ballina, with the donations, make a total of 138*l.* 14*s.*

The Ballina workhouse, built for 1200 inmates, contains, by the last returns, 1151 persons; and the Swineford workhouse, built for 700, contains 722.

It is to be observed, that the deaths in Mayo and in the Sligo district have occurred among persons wanting means to purchase food.

The sales from the Commissariat depôts do not reach the mendicant portions of the population; it is only through the Committees, the subscriptions, the donations, and soup-kitchens, that their sufferings can be relieved after the workhouse is full.

Mr. Adams is now in Tyrrawley and Erris.

The three workhouses in the County of Donegal are, it appears, to be supplied by us; two of them for prompt payment, but the third doubtful.

The Castlebar guardians have been dissolved, the master only remaining in charge. The Commissioners guarantee the supply for a week, at the close of which we advance payments in money, as it appears they have clothes and bedding, and all kinds of things, to purchase.

We are very much delayed in sending you the Relief Maps and the List of Chairmen and Secretaries of present Committees. The fact is, that the book

*The miller feared the people would not buy it under the name of *barley-meal*; but that it sells freely under the name of *rye-meal* or *American-meal*.

from which they should be copied is in constant use all day long, and we are obliged to employ a man at night to do the job.

The subscriptions are pouring in very fast, but you must calculate that when the new Relief Committees are formed and a rate shall be levied, they will fall off very much, if not cease altogether.

All the people about Castlecomer, a colliery not now in operation, in the County of Kilkenny, are in a very sad state of destitution, particularly the district of the Clogh Relief Committee. I have requested Captain Stopford to give them a form from the association.

The best port for the association to send provisions to is Arklow; it is the most central, and the dangerous bar at the mouth of the port has been removed, and has never less, at the lowest tide, than six feet water.

I have several Reports to send you, but fear they will not be ready to-day.

Assistant Commissary-General Bishop states, that in the three baronies of West Carberry, Bantry, and Bere, there have been established 26 soup-kitchens, but such is the destitution of the whole population, from the total loss of their only food, that these will suffice for little more than one-tenth of the population requiring relief.

If you have an officer disposable, I should like to station him at Skull, or in that neighbourhood, for it is a spot that will require our constant superintendence. In the mean while I think of putting two inspecting officers in the districts of Kerry and West Carberry, County Cork.

The vessel to be stationed at Long Island has arrived, but will be stationed for the present in Skull harbour, which affords sufficient shelter, the vessel being small.

Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Moore is gone to Cong.

If you will look at the map, you will observe how it is situated on Lough Corrib, and the navigation on that lake is very dangerous, from the habits of plunder of the adjoining people.

There is a Captain Blake there, a magistrate, who has a deck-boat of about 50 tons, and I am trying to hire it as a convoy to our stores, and put a swivel-gun on the bows, and get some marines from the "Andromache."

The Caheragh Relief Committee has been formed, and the association may address their grant to the Committee there.

ENCLOSURE.

Assistant Commissary-General ADAMS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Swinsford, January 27, 1847.

I arrived on my arrival in this town, on the 19th instant, to attend the Relief Committee, that the day had been appointed for a special meeting of the Poor Law Guardians to consider the insolvent and very critical situation of that asylum.

There were in it upwards of 700 paupers, for whose support on that day there were only 11 stone of meal; and it was stated to be hopeless to expect to obtain credit to procure any further supply, or to provide fuel, &c., for its maintenance any longer, although there appeared to be rates uncollected exceeding 1100*l*. The guardians generally entertained strong objections to strike a new rate, although the necessity of doing so was made evident, until some of the arrears due could be collected, or relief obtained from Government. The measure was, however, carried reluctantly after a lengthy discussion; and thus the serious apprehensions entertained of the great additional destitution which must have prevailed, and the dreadful consequences which might have followed, if the paupers had been turned out in the town and neighbourhood, were much allayed; credit for food was obtained, and a further number of paupers admitted.

2. The proceedings of the Relief Committee were, in consequence of the important meeting adverted to, very brief, as many of the members residing at a distance wished to return to their homes, and were chiefly limited to the disposal of requisitions for labour on the Public Works.

3. I found meal, obtained from Sligo, out of the funds of the Committee, was selling at 2*s*. 9*d*. per stone, and that about 2½ tons remained on hand, besides a balance in money; on the market-day meal was not sold. Dr. Burke, who had undertaken to superintend the relief thus afforded, exhibited to me his accounts and arrangements, which appeared to be satisfactory.

4. I urged upon those influential gentlemen with whom I conversed on the subject, the urgent necessity of circulating a local subscription list, but they all considered it would be next to useless; some of the non-residents, who had been applied to, it was stated, would not or could not contribute, urging their pecuniary difficulties and embarrassments in consequence of the non-payment of their rents, and others had not even replied to the pressing applications made to them.

5. I returned here to-day, and find that no local subscription has been collected, or apparently attempted.

Indian meal was selling by the Committee, and there was about 25 cwt. in store, at 2s. 6d. per stone; the market price of oatmeal yesterday was 3s. 6½d. The balance in hand was 84l. 0s. 7d. (exclusive of 100l. expected from the Relief Officer), with which it was intended to send to the depot at Ballina for 4 tons of meal.

6. I did not fail strongly to recommend the establishment of a soup-kitchen, but at present it is generally considered expedient to economize the funds in their present employment.

7. Foxford.—I yesterday accompanied G. Vaughan Jackson, Esq., to this neighbourhood, and I regret to say we found the locality to be in an extreme state of destitution. The land is generally very sterile, and it appears to be surprising how many of the poor creatures could ever have raised a sufficiency of food for their support. Nothing but the potato could have afforded it. We visited several cabins, some in the village of Upper Sharrover, and the inmates presented objects of the most appalling misery.

Steps will be immediately taken by Mr. Jackson, by circular letter, to solicit local subscriptions, but in the mean time I respectfully but earnestly recommend that a donation may be immediately placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee in Foxford, of which that gentleman is chairman; and I feel satisfied that every precaution will be taken to economize its distribution in relief in this locality; and that as soon as it can be effected, a soup-kitchen will be established.

8. I beg to submit that the Commissariat Office, in Ballina, may be permitted to sell to each of the Committees at Foxford and Swineford, to the extent of 4 tons of Indian corn or meal per week.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, January 27, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the second Report of Captain Mann on the state of County Clare, which manifests the zeal and good feeling of this officer. E. 3207.

I was prepared for his Report on the Scariff Union, and as I shall see the Lord Lieutenant and the Poor Law Commissioner to-morrow, I shall bring the subject under consideration.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain MANN to Commissary-General HENDERSON.

Limerick, January 22, 1847.

IN continuance of my Report of my proceedings under your instructions of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint you, that on Sunday the 17th instant I requested a meeting of the Kilrush Relief Committee, when, on pointing out the great benefit derived by the destitute in places where soup had been distributed, the wish of the Government to encourage such establishments, and the liberal manner in which all subscriptions were met by the donation of an equal sum, an immediate subscription was entered into, for the purpose of providing the means, and on Monday the 18th an issue of soup was commenced. I have further to add, that a bakery is being established in conjunction with the soup kitchen, by which I trust the poor will be also much benefited.

I have therefore to recommend that the subscriptions raised may be met with an equal donation, and further to remark, that the generality of persons about that place have subscribed liberally, considering their means; and I am informed, that on the amount subscribed a short time since, a donation equal to half thereof, only, was granted them. The calls on the Committees' exertions are fast increasing, from the numbers of wretched creatures that are about them, and being very anxious for the success of the bakery and the kitchen also, I am induced strongly to recommend for consideration the propriety of increasing the donation on the subscription, where only half has already been granted, to an equal sum. I am sure it is very much wanted, and that it will tend to insure the success of the undertaking, and I hope, prove an example to other Committees in Clare.

On Thursday the 14th instant I visited Kilkree, and there also a soup kitchen will be immediately established; pending the arrival of a boiler from Dublin, the boilers used for heating water for the baths are promised to be used, and contracts for meat were to be taken the following Saturday.

On Sunday the 17th instant I again left my home for the eastern part of Clare, taking Ennistymon in my road. I am sorry to say no efficient progress has been made there yet; the secretary informed me that the Committee directed him to write for subscriptions to the several landlords after my last visit, and also to apply respecting a soup boiler; that he had done so, and hoped to have a better report soon.

On Monday I visited the Committee of Ballyvaughan, a small inlet on the Clare side of Galway Bay, being 13 miles from that place; this Committee represents 6000 persons, but the town contains only about 200. It is in the barony of Burren; there is no mill there, but a few small shops, and it is dependent on Galway for supplies. On pointing out the value of the soup kitchen, and the liberal offer of the Government, it was immediately promised that every means should be used to establish one, and that subscriptions should be written for to the landlords, and raised among the few persons resident there. Here it is stated, as generally, that

[c. 2.]

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the deaths have much increased among the elder and the younger of the destitute, from bowel complaints, arising, it is said, from cold and insufficient quantity of food. The place is well situated, I think, for a fishery. I am told it was a good station once, but is now neglected for the Public Works, the people being so poor that they cannot afford to run the risk of the loss of a day's employment. There is a coast guard and police station here; the former might be made available for encouraging a fishery, and the latter most useful in the arrangement of a soup kitchen; if the Committee persevere, I have expressed my intention to recommend in this instance an equal donation to any subscriptions they may raise. I then proceeded to Corofin, and on Tuesday through Ennis to Quin. At Ennis, I was informed, the soup kitchen was producing most desirable results. I met the Committee at Quin, which is five miles from Clare Abbey; it represents about 10,000 persons, about 300 of whom live in the village, has no mill, and depends on supplies from Lisserick or Ennis.

I found the Committee assembled, disposing of Indian-corn meal to the destitute; their subscription is small at present, but they express a hope to obtain more. I strongly urged on them the establishment of a soup kitchen, but they appear to have fallen into the general error, that it cannot be beneficial except to a large village population: whereas, it is clear that people for distances round will come in to partake of the benefit. An offer of the equal donation induced them to promise active exertions to obtain subscriptions, and a serious consideration of the benefit of the distribution of soup.

I then proceeded to Tulla. The Committee here represent about 11,000 persons; the town has about 800. Through the active and generous exertions of the principal resident proprietor, J. Malony, Esq., two soup kitchens have been established, and there is a very fair supply of Indian-corn meal, purchased from Lisserick, and sold by the Committee at cost price. The announcement of the liberal offer of Government was met by that gentleman increasing his subscription 100*l*, and the promise of another soup kitchen being established. The poor here have the good fortune to possess residents who cheerfully work together for their benefit.

On Thursday the 21st I left Tulla and proceeded to Scariff, which is about 22 miles from Ennis and Lisserick. It has a Union house, a mill, and the means of water carriage by the river Shannon.

This Committee represents about 7000 souls, and the town has about 1300 inhabitants. There is a subscription raised, about 60*l*, and the Committee promise an appeal to be made by the parish priest on Sunday next, and a large increase to that subscription in consequence of the liberal offer by the Government of an equal amount. This district is indeed in a most distressing and alarming position, and unless energetic measures are taken, I am not prepared to say what will be the consequence. It was represented to me that the deaths in the Union workhouse, some little time since, had increased to a most alarming extent; that the mortality arose from the exhausted state of the paupers when admitted, and the nature of the food given then to them; that, to counteract this, issues of soup were resorted to thrice a-week, with white instead of whole-meal bread, and that since then a great improvement had taken place in the health of the inmates; but still deaths were continually occurring from dysentery.

This Union house is in a most deplorable state; it is quite, if not over, full. The funds are exhausted, and a debt incurred, amounting to 2500*l*. The last rate has not been wholly collected; a new rate has been granted, but its collection is very doubtful. Yesterday a large meeting was held of the Guardians, and, in order to prevent its being shut up for want of funds or credit, some gentlemen passed a vote for half a ton of meal to supply a day or two's food to the paupers; and it is stated that, unless a supply can be obtained, the house must be shut, and the wretched creatures turned out.

It is painful to report that this Committee have done nothing as yet, beyond providing road work—no supply of food or other exertion has been used; it is clear there is dissension and want of energy, and, with the exception of three or four respectable tradespeople, a culpable apathy, which, if persevered in, must end in the most fearful results. I pointed out the value and absolute necessity of an early establishment of a soup kitchen, and I am promised it shall be attended to. I found a butcher who will supply the meat at three-pence per lb.; but still, observing the spirit of some members of the Committee, I do feel very uneasy that such a very distressed district, perhaps about the worst in Clare, should be intrusted to their care.

On the 21st I visited the Lord Bishop of Killaloe, with the object of representing the alarming state of the Scariff Union house, the former place being in that Union. His Lordship appeared fully aware of the absolute necessity of some immediate and active steps being taken to prevent the dispersion of the inmates of the house, and the fearful consequences of spreading contagion, which he informed me had been carried into Mount Shannon by some of the poor who had already, to use his own expression, "run away from the house." I cannot too strongly urge the necessity of this place being immediately attended to.

At the close of the interview, my next visit was to the Killaloe Relief Committee. I found an early distribution of soup had commenced here, and that it had been confined to gratuitous issues to the very destitute, but a large boiler having been obtained, it is being set up this day, and immediately a more extensive issue, at a cheap rate or price, will commence. It is perhaps not out of place to remark here that, in order to meet the custom of the Catholic population, I have suggested in all cases the propriety of making a soup from whole Indian corn (humusy) with a little milk, if it can be procured, for Fridays and other fast days; having the means, a second small boiler has been to-day set there for that purpose. It appeared by the correspondence that this Committee had been in direct communication with the Relief Office, and their position known.

Having returned, and so far detailed the facts that have come under my notice at the various places visited by me, I now beg to point out, that in the localities where the *severest distress* prevails, I am sorry to say that there appeared a want of unity of purpose on the part of the Commissioners, and to those places the particular attention of the inspecting officer should be called.

It also appears to me desirable, that a circular should be sent by the head of the constabulary, detailing the mode in which the services of that corps should be made available in the soup kitchens, where watchful superintendence is so necessary. It is of great importance that such a supervision should be established for the security of the poor.

I beg further to add, that the issues of food from the Kilrush depôt appear to me to have been most beneficial, both as a supply and for establishing a feeling of confidence in the country. The peculiar situation and destitution of Clare is such, that I must strongly recommend that a supply to the fullest extent the Government resources here will admit, may be granted, particularly to the remote and mountainous districts out of the reach of markets, where deaths from disease, brought on, I much fear, by insufficient food and raiment, were visibly increasing. At the same time, the poor creatures are suffering most severely, and bearing it with a patient endurance that calls for our warmest sympathy, and most active exertions on their behalf. Having few to help them, or resident gentry, these localities will have chiefly to look to the Clare Castle depôt.

I now close with a hope (in case all who have promised keep their word), that in the course of a very short time, in every place in Clare where the distribution of soup can be made available, a soup kitchen will be at work; and, from what I have seen, there is no hesitation on my mind in declaring, that it is of much greater importance than I can find language to describe. It supplies the place of milk, which cannot be now obtained by the poor man. On one occasion a poor fellow told me, "Cold and exposure on the Public Works, with Indian-meal bread and water, was sapping his life up." Whenever the charitable will aid such a poor man's meal with the addition of a little soup, a blessing will attend them and their labour.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 3, 1847.

WRITE to Sir R. Routh, that my Lords have perused with much interest and approbation the Second Report of Captain Mann on the state of County Clare, which accompanied Sir. R. Routh's letter of the 27th ultimo.

SIR GEORGE GREY TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT.

Whitehall, January 26, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the arrangements which it will be necessary to make in order to bring into operation, at the earliest period, the system of temporary relief in Ireland, which it is proposed to substitute for the system hitherto adopted by means of employment on Public Works. I enclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the Bill to be presented to the House of Commons, embodying such of those arrangements as require the sanction of the Legislature.

A Board will be forthwith constituted by your Excellency in Dublin, for the general superintendence of the plan about to be adopted. Major-General Sir John F. Burgoyne has been selected to preside over this Board, and he is now in communication with the Government, with a view to his being accurately informed as to the existing state of the country, and as to the details of the intended measures of relief. He will proceed in a few days to Dublin, with instructions to confer with your Excellency as to the duties with which he is to be entrusted, and to assist in those preliminary arrangements which your Excellency will direct to be made, in order to prepare for the new organization for the purpose of relief.

In addition to Sir John Burgoyne, the Board will consist of the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, the resident Poor Law Commissioner, the Chairman of the Board of Works, the Inspector-General of the Constabulary, and the head of the Commissariat Department in Ireland.

The Board will act under directions from Her Majesty's Government, in communication with your Excellency, and instructions as to the issues of money will be addressed to it by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

It is intended that in every electoral division of the Unions in Ireland, in which it shall appear to you that extraordinary measures of relief are required, a Relief Committee shall be established, under instructions to be given for this purpose by your Excellency, who will be entrusted with a large discretion

in the composition of it. It is proposed that in all cases the guardians or guardian of the electoral division, and the magistrates resident within it, shall be members of the Relief Committee established in such electoral division, and your Excellency will nominate the other members from among the resident clergy, rate-payers, or such other persons as you shall think proper, with reference to the circumstances of each case. A certain number of competent officers will also be selected by your Excellency from among those in the service of the Commissariat or Board of Works, who must be *ex officio* members of all Relief Committees, and who may be the medium of communication between them and the Central Board in Dublin. On the establishment of any such Relief Committee, the Relief Committee at present acting for any district comprised within the electoral division for which the new Relief Committee will have been constituted, will either be dissolved, or will cease to act in that electoral division.

The duty of these Committees will be to ascertain, as far as possible, from time to time, the number of destitute persons within the electoral division for whom relief is to be provided: with reference to this duty, instructions will be furnished to them from the Central Board.

In order to provide the necessary relief, the Committees will be supplied with funds from the following sources:—First, from the rates assessed and levied within the Union by the Board of Guardians for the relief of the poor. Secondly, from voluntary subscriptions, either local or received from any general fund raised by charitable contributions. Thirdly, from grants of money from the public Treasury, the amount of which will, as a general rule, bear a certain proportion to the aggregate amount derived from the two former sources; such proportion, however, being varied at the discretion of the Central Board, according to the exigencies of particular cases. Your Excellency will perceive that by the enclosed Bill it is proposed to render the rates levied under the Poor Law for the relief of the poor applicable to the contemplated purposes of relief. It is further proposed to authorise the Treasury to make advances to Boards of Guardians, charged on the security of the rates, for the purposes of such relief.

If the plan were not to come into operation in any electoral division until the guardians had actually levied and placed at the disposal of Relief Committees a certain sum from the rates of the Union, the relief which is intended to be given would be in most cases so long delayed as greatly to impair its usefulness and efficiency. At the same time, it is most important that whenever an advance from the Treasury is required, a sufficient rate to meet the demands on the fund should be simultaneously struck, and that immediate steps should be taken for its collection. The reluctance of many of the Boards of Guardians to discharge this duty renders it necessary to take some additional power for enforcing its performance; and the Bill contains a provision by which, on the first dissolution by the Poor Law Commissioners of a Board of Guardians, they will be authorized to appoint a paid Board, without the delay at present incurred by the necessity of having recourse to an intermediate election.

I proceed, in the next place, to state the nature of the relief which is to be afforded through the agency of these Relief Committees. It is intended that such relief should be given only in food, to be purchased by the Committees out of the funds at their disposal. Whenever it is practicable, such food will be sold; but gratuitous distribution will be sanctioned in cases in which no means of purchasing it exist. If flour or meal is sold, it will be necessary to adhere to the rule hitherto enforced, by which such food is required not to be sold at less than the cost price. But this rule will not be enforced in the case of soup, which is the kind of food which will chiefly be distributed by the Relief Committees. The mode of distribution will, in fact, be similar to that which is now in extensive operation, by means of soup-kitchens established in many parts of the country, from which soup is supplied to large numbers of persons at a very moderate price. This mode of relief appears to be the most economical as well as the most efficacious which has yet been adopted, and by its general application, whenever required, through the agency now about to be established, Her Majesty's Government trust that the most effectual means within their power will be taken for relieving, on the most extensive scale, and at the least expense, the pressing and urgent wants of large numbers suffering from destitution, and who are not included in the direct means of relief hitherto adopted.

by the Government. It is unnecessary for me to point out to your Excellency that great care and prudence will be requisite in the administration of this relief. One main object of the proposed alteration of the system of relief, under the present circumstances of the country, is to restore the ordinary relations between owners and occupiers of land and the labouring class, and to remove the alleged obstacles to the employment of labour in the cultivation of the land. It is of the greatest importance that this object should be constantly kept in view, and that the relief to be afforded should not be an inducement to idleness, but should, if possible, be made a stimulus to labour. Gratuitous distribution, should, therefore, not be sanctioned in any case in which it is ascertained that the persons applying for relief have the opportunity of obtaining employment and wages sufficient to provide themselves by their industry with the means of purchase. Upon this, and other important matters of detail, the Central Board will have to exercise a vigilant superintendence, and will issue from time to time such instruction to the Relief Committees as may appear to them to be required.

The Relief Committees, with a view to the calm and deliberate discharge of their duties, should only admit, and at their discretion, those persons from whom they may obtain information, or applicants for relief; their meetings will thus not be liable to the interruptions and disorder which have so frequently arisen from the indiscriminate admission of all persons at the Presentment Sessions. Such indiscriminate admission, therefore, should be forbidden by an order from your Excellency.

Having stated the outline of the plan by which the Government hopes, with the sanction of Parliament, to provide a more effectual agency than at present exists for the mitigation of the suffering occasioned by scarcity in Ireland, I have to address to your Excellency some observations on a point of considerable importance. The proposed plan is intended to be a substitute for the mode of relief provided for by the 10 Vict. c. 107; but it is impossible that the change from the one system to the other can be carried into effect at once and simultaneously throughout the country. The vast extent of the Relief Works in progress renders this change one of no ordinary difficulty. The discharge of the large number of men now employed on Public Works must be effected with caution and by degrees; and in no case ought such works to be stopped until the new machinery is constituted by which relief in the new form can be afforded. There are, however, some places in which, from the nature of the works or other circumstances, and from facilities of obtaining ordinary employment, the works may be discontinued at a very early period; there are others again in which the incomplete state of the works will require that they should be continued for a longer time; and there may possibly be cases in which it will be necessary that new presentments, if made, should be sanctioned, for limited objects, and with a view to the completion of some work of public utility, undertaken in the expectation of its being carried through by means of such presentments. It is not, therefore, proposed to repeal, or to restrict by law, the operation of the 10 Vict. c. 107, but your Excellency will cause it to be known that Her Majesty's Government will, as a general rule, decline to sanction any new presentment under that statute, and that the system of Relief Works will be brought to a close at the earliest period which is consistent with those considerations which must be taken into account with reference to this matter. §

I have only further to inform you that Sir John Burgoyne will be authorized, with the sanction of your Excellency, to select from among those at present employed in connexion with the Relief Works, a certain number of officers to be placed at the disposal of the Board, to proceed to any part of the country from which representations of urgent distress may be received, either for the purpose of local investigation, or of superintending or assisting in the measures which may be deemed essential for the relief of such distress.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 1, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the weekly return of the Commissariat depôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations, and of the sums subscribed up to the 30th ultimo.

348765. 16s. 6d.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS, &c., in the several Depôts in IRLAND, showing the Issues during that period, and the REMAINS on Saturday, the 30th of January, 1847.

Dep'ts.	In Quarters of Eight Bushels each.						In Sacks of Eight Bushels each.						Bags of Wheat of 112 lbs. each.	Remarks.	
	Indian Corn.		Wheat.		Peas.		Indian Corn Meal.		Wheat Meal.		Barley Meal.				Oatsmeal.
	Issues.	Returns.	Issues.	Returns.	Issues.	Returns.	Issues.	Returns.	Issues.	Returns.	Issues.	Returns.			
Limerick	..	1,083	..	..	..	..	..	7,324	..	..	..	..	29	..	In transit, 1,234 sacks Indian meal to sundry dep'ts.
Kilrush	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	310	..	..	..	..	24	..	53 sacks Indian meal to Kilrush.
Malbeggar	..	..	..	..	..	..	160	1	..	..	..	..	319	..	30 bags biscuit to dep'ts.
Slidabreen	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	95-4	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Drighe	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1,243	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Callersan	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	180	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Callersan	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	134	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ches Castle	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	600	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Garry	..	7,336	..	..	..	..	622	1,368	..	..	..	..	9	..	
Wexford	..	2,093	..	..	..	..	78	1,043	..	..	..	..	24	..	
Chilfen. Return not received.	..	..	..	..	..	380	..	680	..	..	..	..	..	..	63 quarters Indian meal to Dogert.
Belinise. Return not received.	..	..	..	..	..	220	..	1,563	..	..	..	..	..	..	Remains on 23rd January.
Dogert. Return not received.	..	141	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sligo	177	2,022	..	582	..	..	..	2,441	..	..	..	..	..	..	33 sacks Indian meal to Dep'ts.
Bellina	..	1,160	..	..	..	..	96	1,040	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Killybegs	102	832	..	..	..	..	176	2,203	24	128	..	..	..	..	
Barriest	..	314	..	..	..	..	164	983	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Dunfenghy	2	320	..	..	..	..	216	844	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Knabing	60	198	..	..	..	..	34	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Dublin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,437	..	..	..	..	280	..	In transit to Banagher and Longford, 576 sacks oatmeal, and 888 sacks barley meal.
Banagher	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	177	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Longford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Callerna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Roscommon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Stokkstown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	350	15,466	..	582	..	600	54	1,820	24,900	24	1,593	64	11,927	721	287 4,091

Total in transit.—63 quarters Indian corn; 1396 sacks Indian meal; 588 sacks barley meal; 576 sacks oatmeal; 30 bags beans.

In transit, 1,234 sacks Indian meal to sundry depôts.

53 sacks Indian meal to Kilrush.

30 bags meal to depôts.

63 quarters Indian corn to Dogert.

Remains on 31st January.

37 sacks Indian meal to Depôts.

60

700

In transit to Benagher and Longford, 576 sacks oatmeal, and 888 sacks barley meal.

List of Donations—continued.

Date.	Committees.	Donations.			Subscriptions.			
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1847								
Jan. 28 .	Deemonee district, county Westmeath	35	0	0	35	15	0	
"	Collon and Monasterboice district, county Louth	39	0	0	38	18	6	
"	Marvree district, county Westmeath	100	0	0	100	0	0	
"	Trillick district, county Tyrone	40	0	0	40	0	0	
"	Templeroe district, county Tipperary	50	0	0	43	8	6	
"	Ardmore district, county Waterford	285	0	0	285	5	3	
"	Bunsbury district, county Clare	50	0	0	37	0	0	
"	Kilshanny district, county Clare	150	0	0	131	0	0	
"	Doonas district, county Clare	60	0	0	39	2	6	
"	Skull district, county Cork	50	0	0	50	0	0	
"	Newport district, county Mayo	200	0	0	168	2	2½	
"	Tedin Carnek district, county Donegal	70	0	0	27	6	8	
	Total	£	34,870	16	0	43,524	8	9

Dulloo Castle, February 1, 1847.

R. J. ROUTH, Commissary-General.

To the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Her Majesty's First Lord of the Treasury.

THE undersigned citizens of the United States of America, desiring that their fellow-countrymen may participate in the pleasure of extending relief to their suffering brethren in Ireland, have learned with much gratification that the English Government has intimated a willingness to defray the expense of transportation of the provisions and clothing which the Society of Friends in America may contribute for the destitute Irish. The undersigned would respectfully inquire if they may be permitted to transmit to America, by the Royal Mail Packet leaving on the 4th, an intimation that the English Government will defray the expense of conveying from America to Irish sea-ports *all* other contributions of provisions and clothing which may be made in, and forwarded from, the United States, for the same benevolent object?

ELIHU BURRITT, *Mass., U. S. A.*
JAMES L. L. F. WARREN, *Mass.*

No. 27, New Broad-street,
London, February 1, 1847.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 2, 1847.

WRITE to Messrs. Burritt and Warren that Her Majesty's Treasury will be prepared to pay the freight of any provisions or clothing which benevolent persons in the United States may send to Ireland, or to the distressed districts in Scotland, on proof being afforded that the articles were purchased from the produce of private subscriptions, and have been appropriated to charitable objects.

TREASURY MINUTE.

October 9, 1846.

WRITE to the Secretary of the Ordnance, and with reference to his letter of the 16th ultimo, request that he will state to the Master-General and Board that, under the circumstances represented by the forage contractors in Ireland, my Lords are of opinion that the same measure of relief may be afforded to them as was sanctioned by the letter of this Board of the 1st November, 1845, upon a similar representation on the part of the forage contractors in Ireland last year—viz.:

That the contractors should be held liable to fulfil their engagements, and that to such of them as shall not fail in doing so, an advance may be made in the prices at which they have contracted to supply oats, sufficient to compensate them for the actual loss in money which they may have sustained in making

their purchases, upon statements to be verified by the proper officers of the Ordnance in Ireland, satisfactorily showing the prices actually paid, and that the oats could not have been procured at lower rates by increased personal exertions.

TREASURY MINUTE.

January 22, 1847.

WRITE to the Secretary of the Ordnance, in reply to his letter of the 18th instant, for the information of the Master-General and Board, that it appears to my Lords that the contractors for the supply of oats for the use of the troops in Ireland may, under the present circumstances of the grain markets, properly be allowed the same indulgence as was granted on two recent occasions to other forage contractors by the communications of this Board of the 1st November, 1845, and the 9th October, 1846; and their Lordships consider that the reported intention of the Clerk of Survey to assist and encourage the contractors to the utmost of his power in obtaining the requisite supplies, by promptly settling their accounts, and by securing when necessary, military or constabulary protection in the transit of their supplies, is deserving of entire approval.

TREASURY MINUTE.

January 29, 1847.

WRITE to the Secretary of the Ordnance, and with reference to his letter of the 23rd instant, request that he will state to the Master-General and Board that my Lords are well aware of the difficulties experienced by the forage contractors in Ireland in fulfilling their contracts, and the only further suggestion which it occurs to their Lordships to make, beyond what is contained in the letter of this Board of the 25th instant, is that it may be deserving of consideration whether, under the present circumstances of a scarcity of grain in Ireland, it might not be proper, in communication with the military authorities, to diminish for a time the quantity of oats of which the forage ration is composed, and, if necessary, to increase the quantity of hay.

MR. T. HANKEY TO MR. TREVELYAN.

January 30, 1847.

It appears to me to be well worthy of the consideration of Government whether a very considerable saving of human food might not be immediately effected by a change in the food of the horses used in the army.

The military allowance of horse food is, I believe, per horse per diem:—

Of oats	10 lb.
Of hay	12 lb.

I propose to diminish the allowance of oats by 2 lb., and to increase that of hay or chaff by 4 lb. I believe that it would be admitted that horses could be kept in perfectly good working order on such food, and if not for a permanence, certainly for a time, without the smallest risk of injury; and when the high prices or urgent demand have ceased, the restoration to former diet could in like manner be effected, without the smallest inconvenience or diminution from effectual service. This change would release 2 lbs. of oats per diem for every horse.

There cannot be less (probably considerably more in all departments of Government service) than 7000 horses now kept on Government allowance in England, Scotland, and Ireland. This would release about 14,000 lbs., or about 45 quarters of oats per diem, and afford immediate food for probably 5000 persons per diem. This is certainly an important consideration. There would also be a certain saving of money, as the price of hay is reasonable, I believe, throughout Great Britain, and although the great consumption thus caused might somewhat enhance the price, I do not apprehend that it could do it to such an extent as to cause any increase over present expenditure. The present

[c. 2.]

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price of oats may be quoted at 38s. per quarter, or 4s. 9d. a bushel of 38 lbs., which would be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

The present extreme price of hay does not exceed 84s. per load of 36 trusses of 56 lbs. each, or somewhere about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; therefore,

	s.	d.
10 lbs. of oats at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. cost	.	1 3
12 lbs. of hay at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. cost	.	0 6
		1 9
	s.	d.
8 lbs. of oats at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. cost	.	1 0
16 lbs. of hay at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. cost	.	0 8
		1 8

—being a saving of 1d. per horse per diem, or, on 7000 horses, about 30*l*.

If you think this of sufficient importance, would you call the attention of the military authorities to the subject?

MR. TREVELYAN to MR. BYHAM.

February 1, 1847.

WE wrote to you a day or two ago in reference to the forage contracts in Ireland, suggesting that the rations of oats should be diminished for the present, and those of hay increased, since which I have received the accompanying letter from Mr. Thomson Hankey, the merchant in the City.

Next to drawing increased supplies from abroad, the best mode of increasing our available stock of human food, would be to put our animals on short allowance, or at least on a change of diet, which, while it would not do them much harm, would do us much good; and if the Master-General and Board should think that there is reason in this view, they will perhaps consider how far it may be advisable to diminish the rations of oats to the cavalry horses in England as well as Ireland.

MR. BYHAM to MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, February 2, 1847.

WITH reference to your communication of yesterday's date, upon the subject of a reduction of the ration of oats to the cavalry horses in England and Ireland, I am directed to acquaint you that the ration of forage for the cavalry is not regulated by the Master-General and Board of Ordnance, but by the military authorities in conjunction with the Secretary at War; and I am to add, that the suggestion contained in your letter of the 28th ultimo, has been communicated to the Ordnance department in Dublin, for the purpose of being brought under the consideration of the military authorities there.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 1, 1847.

EVERY day brings so many changes that I cannot, without reference, give you the list of boilers we require, but no time shall be lost in obtaining the information, for which I send out a circular to the south and west districts to have an answer by return of post. I cannot tell which of them may have been supplied since my last communication. You do not mention in your letter whether they are to be sold or given, but I presume the latter from the terms in which you speak of the subject.

I am glad to tell you that the bill, which appeared here in this morning's papers, in relation to the new plan of Relief Committees by Electoral Divisions,

has given much satisfaction. All those whom I have seen or spoken to approve of it highly. We have 2049 electoral divisions, but I have no doubt that we may be able to keep the number of committees within the 1000, or very little exceeding it.

With regard to the naval captains, to whom we have given two counties to each, with some exceptions, we have Down and Antrim, and Donegal and Londonderry, without inspecting officers. Since my last we have been joined by Commander Stuart and Commander Bolton. Kerry has become so important that I propose, with your sanction, to allot Kerry, as low as Kenmare, to Captain Stuart; and the remainder, including West and East Carberry, County Cork, to Captain Drury. Captain Bolton takes Louth and Monaghan. These two officers will be reported to-morrow.

There is a great run on the depot at Galway. The merchants are refusing to sell, waiting for higher prices, and Mr. Trimmer has been pushed into the market. I write to him to offer the whole corn, which we cannot get the people to try. I am anxious to keep up the Galway depot, as we have Cong to fill, and a large poor back country to supply. I have requested the "Bull Dog" to be sent there, and I learn this day her arrival. I am much afraid that we shall have a difficulty in giving store-room to the Association, but I write to Mr. Lister to give every assistance in his power. Both at Westport and Killibegs we are weak in this particular, but we shall do our best.

And now I proceed to the question of the Belleisle. You do not mention her tonnage, but I suppose 1000 tons, and certainly it would be very desirable to secure such a quantity, but it is more wanted at Killibegs than Limerick.

We can hereafter direct our sailing vessels to the former, and I will take care and have the "Madagascar" at Tarbert, and the "Andromeda" at Killibegs, ready to receive her cargo.

Whatever may be the increase or decrease of subscriptions hereafter, they are rapidly increasing at the present moment. I have 25 subscription lists this morning, and I think two amongst them of 500*l*. If a remittance does not arrive in a day or two I shall be a bankrupt.

I saw Drummond, the seedsman, one of the first here. He told me that he thought he could procure sufficient oats still in the country fit for seed, but that there was no time to lose, as they were grinding fast. As for green crop seeds, there was no parsnip seed in the country, nor to be had in England, nor on the continent; but that fine turnip seed might be procured sufficient for 100,000 acres. I understand the Agricultural Society's estimate of the quantity wanted was 120,000 acres. I send you two letters on the subject, and if you propose that I should do anything, probably by advertisement and tender, you have no time to lose in giving me the necessary instructions. I should recommend that the law officers should take a joint bond from the proprietor and occupier, and upon this that an order for the quantities required should be given to the parties, addressed to the seedsman who might obtain the contract, which order (acknowledging the receipt of the seed) should be payable on presentation, or with the contractor's accounts.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 2, 1847.

I CANNOT exactly understand why there should be this rush of subscriptions at the present moment, but as soon as the bill reaches through the country places, and the people understand there will be a rate, it will of course have a pause. I have sent you four biscuits, made out of some meal which a committee in County Clare refused to purchase, on account of its quality. It was in our stores in Galway; I never tasted any thing better, and I hope it will reach you in the same state in which I send it. It is the Indian corn meal, without any mixture.

I have written to Mr. Trimmer to ascertain if the "Andromache" is in sufficiently deep water for a large vessel to go alongside of her and unload, for if so the "Belleisle" might touch there.

The demand for barley meal is not so great as for the Indian corn meal; they retain their last year's preference, but the difference of price has its temptations

The arrival of the "Globe," destined for Limerick, with 5500 barrels of Indian corn meal, will change the dispositions of our shipments, now making to Limerick. I hope the "Globe" will come on, and it would be an economy to make it worth the master's while to do so, for the American barrels are so frail that there will be a great loss in transshipment. This arrival will so replenish the Limerick stores that I think we must give a little assistance to Galway, where the trade either have no corn or are keeping it up for higher prices, and we are meeting all the demands of the country from our *dépôt*, about 80 tons last week, and will not probably be less. What do you think would be a fair price to charge for our rice? The trade here at Dublin are selling at 25s. per cwt. The Lord Lieutenant told me yesterday that the accounts from France were very bad; that in some places there were not three weeks' provisions. We are certainly somewhat in the dark about the actual state of their demands, and therefore we cannot calculate on our own expectations in our ignorance of the amount of their competition.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 3, 1847.

I HAVE no letter from you to-day. I hope to send you a memorandum of the boilers to-morrow, and I shall furnish a copy to the Admiral. Mr. Bishop's calculation in the rural district of Cork makes the population to be 700,000, of which one-half may be classed more or less as paupers, and 400 soup establishments would barely suffice.

We must look at this as a great auxiliary, but not more.

The importance of County Kerry is so great that I have found it necessary to make a new division for the Inspecting Officers, giving Captain Stuart as far as the River Kenmare, and Captain Drury from that point south, including

Barony of Glaneroaght, County Kerry,
West Carberry,
West Division of East Carberry,
Baronies of Ibane and Baryroe,
West Muskerry.

This arrangement makes Mr. Bishop's duty a little more manageable.

I have a chosen constable with the floating *dépôt* at Skull, but there is so much commissariat supervision necessary in that quarter that I hope you will bear me in mind if an officer of the department should present himself.

Mr. Redington has just written to me about the sessions to be held at Bantry on Monday next, and he fears that the influx of people might occasion a scarcity and a tumult. I have written to Mr. Hewetson to put him on his guard, but there is not a want of food so much as want of money to buy it. Skibbereen is full of supplies. I think the rate to be levied by the new bill will work well in that respect, and equalize subscriptions. I have frequently been asked if it is to be raised on the electoral divisions, or on the whole union, a question of much interest here, but I was not able to answer it.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 5, 1847.

THE day before yesterday Captain Nott was added to the list of your Inspectors; yesterday Captain Wellesley, and to-day Captain Giffard, all of the Royal Navy, and, as I believe, excellent men.

We may send one more, if we are able to satisfy ourselves that we can get another officer of really superior qualifications, and after that we shall stop until we hear from you.

The batch of reports from our Inspecting Officers, which I received from you this morning, was very creditable to them, and I think we cannot do the country a better service than to lay before Parliament, from time to time, say at the termination of each month, selections from the correspondence, in order that all may see what is going on, and what the points are on which they may give their aid.

We therefore rely upon your continuing to send forward, without delay, all reports and other documents throwing light upon the progress of events.

The map you have sent me, descriptive of the inspecting districts, dépôts, and unions, is very useful, and I shall be obliged to you to have three more maps made like it, bringing the information up to the latest date, one of which will be for Lord John Russell, another for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the other for the British Association.

The females of the upper and middle classes in England are employing themselves to a surprising extent in the charitable work of making clothes for the destitute Irish, and they would carry it still further if they could have some assurance that the clothes would be properly distributed where they are most required.

Pray give your attention to the subject, and tell me what you would propose. It occurs to me that our Inspecting Officers might be called upon to report in what proportion donations of clothes should be placed at the disposal of Relief Committees to be selected on account of their activity and the more than ordinary destitution in their neighbourhood; and I would suggest that as the ladies make the clothes, so the ladies should, as far as possible, distribute them. I observe there are benevolent associations of Irish ladies for the relief of the people in several parts of the country.

We have sent an order to Liverpool for the manufacture, with the least possible delay, of a large number of boilers, which are to be made of the respective sizes of 60, 80, and 100 gallons, one-third of each; and the manufacturer is to ship them to your order to any ports in Ireland. You will shortly receive full particulars respecting this arrangement.

Mr. Erichsen will immediately freight two ships from London to Galway with barley-meal, rice, and pease.

It has been determined to send the "Belleisle" with troops to Gibraltar, and two of the largest class steamers are to be loaded with meal for our dépôts in Ireland—the "Odin" from the Thames, and the "Birkenhead" from Portsmouth.

You must inform me how you wish these cargoes to be disposed of. Killibegs may be amply supplied by means of them.

I will speak to Sir John Burgoyne about the necessary accommodation for the commission.

You shall hear from me about the price to be charged for the rice to-morrow.

The accounts from France are conflicting; but I believe the truth to be that there is great inequality in different parts of the country, but that the Government have managed, by artificial means, to keep down prices, in some degree, at Paris, but this cannot last.

Our own prospect of supplies is improving; they are coming from quarters whence they were not expected,—large quantities of rice from India, for instance, and rye meal from Russia; and the suspension of the navigation laws is working well, and large quantities will, undoubtedly, come from America.

I have lately had a good deal of discussion with members of the London Committee about their operations.

The most useful thing they can do, and the one least liable to abuse, is to send cargo after cargo of provisions to those Irish ports in the neighbourhood of which the greatest scarcity exists, and to sell them at once at cost price to the Relief Committees, for which purpose our inspectors might make arrangements beforehand with those committees which are most in need of supplies. By adopting this plan, the committee would be saved store-room and establishment, which do not suit the general character of their proceedings.

They are thinking, however, and it appears to me with reason, of making an exception to this rule, by establishing a dépôt of their own at Dublin, upon which they might give orders to the Relief Committees in the neighbouring districts. Dublin, as you know, commands, by reason of the canals, a great extent of country that is otherwise not easily accessible.

Where cases of distress occur which cannot be reached by either of these modes, the Committee must make money grants subject to the checks which have been established, and which appear to work well; and I have recommended that they should make these grants quite irrespectively of our dépôts, that is, without entering upon the question of whether the money will be laid

out in buying food from our depôts or from private dealers, and the matter will then follow the usual course without any new complication.

Pray tell me what you think of this plan of proceeding, especially in regard to the proposed depôt at Dublin. Also pray write, without any delay, to Col. Brough and Captain Stopford, and desire them to be prepared for the arrival of cargoes from the London Committee in their respective districts, and to arrange with a limited number of the Relief Committees, whose wants are most pressing, to purchase the cargoes at cost price, without any charge for freight. The vessels will be sent to New Ross and Wexford (both in Captain Stopford's district), it being supposed that the harbour of Arklow will not admit a good-sized steamer; and Captain Stopford must arrange for the Wicklow share of the supplies being sent coastways to Arklow, unless the Wicklow Committees can send for them to Wexford.

I will request the London Committee to furnish us with full particulars.

Castle Plunkett seems a very bad case. Has a Relief Committee been assembled for it, and subscriptions called for?

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, February 2, 1847.

I CONSIDER the enclosed letter a document of so interesting a character that I do not wish to delay a post to copy it. If you will kindly cause a copy to be made and returned to me, I shall be obliged.

ENCLOSURE.

Doctor GELSTON to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

63, George's Street, Limerick, February 2, 1847.

IN reference to our conversation yesterday with respect to the diminution of disease in this locality, I have hurriedly placed in a tangible shape the few following facts, and which are uncontradictable:—

In our County Infirmary, a very large hospital containing 120 beds, and also affording vast relief to an immense number of external applicants for medical aid, we find that during former years we were constantly obliged to defer the admission of patients for three and four months beyond the date of their application at the hospital, by which many cases, at the time easily cured (had they been admitted), were rendered of a chronic, and in some instances, most unmanageable character, and even in a few, death terminated their sufferings before the arrival of the day on which a bed could be rendered vacant for them in this institution. The past six months presents a happy contrast to the above. Every patient whose case can be benefited is now admitted on the day of application, instead of, as formerly, being deferred for months. Indeed we have on an average 20 beds vacant for the last three months; a fact unparalleled for the last seven years. The character of disease has also altered in no small degree, for in former times, when the poor peasant's only food was the watery potatoe, diseases of the digestive functions were of most frequent occurrence, characterised chiefly by irritation of the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal; at present these diseases are, comparatively speaking, rare, and when the people become better accustomed to the use of grain, we shall, I hope and expect, have a further diminution of disease. These facts may tend to show one cause of the great fatality of typhus fever in this country, for no more serious complication can occur in this disease than irritation of the alimentary canal; and we should hope, from a like reasoning, that the mortality of fever will become much lessened; and at present our District Fever Hospital is considerably under its average number of patients at this season of the year. I give you a return of the number of cases admitted into the latter institution for the years 1845 and 1846.

Year, 1845, number of patients, 5391; year, 1846, number of patients, 2204.

In the month of February of 1846, there were admitted 165 cases, but in the past month of the present year, the average number admitted did not exceed 64. In the entire of the past year, each month shows a gradual decrease in the number of applications for admission. The number received in January 1846, being 172; and in the December following, only 72.

In our City Dispensary, there is also a very considerable diminution in the number seeking for medical relief. These facts are still further borne out in the hospitals attached to our county and city goals; I can also confidently state that, within my recollection, there has not been so little of the ordinary classes of disease amongst the poor as at the present period.

In the City of Limerick Infirmary, an equal diminution of disease presents itself, alone attributable to the change in the diet of the poor consequent on the abolition of the potatoe.

I do not mean to deny the existence of suffering and great debility in those districts where food is not easily procured, but I strongly assert that if the lower classes be employed, and thus enabled to procure grain in lieu of their former, we shall have a much better and more healthy population.

These facts I have very hastily put together, but had I given myself more time (which I regret I cannot from the nature of my professional avocations), I could easily show that anything which can tend to improve the sanitary condition of the labouring poor must in an equal ratio lessen the taxation.

The Rev. T. MATHEW to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 4, 1847.

I THANK YOU cordially for your kindness in thinking of me in the distribution of your most interesting, instructive, and valuable Blue Books.

They contain a complete vindication of the Government measures. You have done all that could be done to alleviate the calamity with which it has pleased the Lord to visit the Irish nation.

You will pardon me for saying that I am more sanguine in my hopes of a speedy and cheap supply of food than you appear to be. America, through its vast length and breadth, is coming to help us, not with contributions in money, but in breadstuffs. The soup kitchens are affording very great relief, and have lightened in an unexpected degree the pressure upon the corn and flour markets.

We are in a deplorable state in Cork from the influx into the city of more than 10,000 foodless, houseless people, young and old, from the several counties around us. I am in a horror whilst I walk the streets, and I return to my besieged dwelling in sadness and hopelessness. The workhouse has been closed, and there is no refuge for these miserable creatures.

I take the liberty to forward to your address this morning's Cork paper. You will find in it a plan of mine to preserve from death, by famine, the destitute, until the much-wanted New Poor Law will come into operation. As yet I do not know from what source we are to obtain funds for this merciful asylum.

As I have been much through the country latterly, I can assure you, and with great pleasure, that agriculture has not been neglected. The quantity of wheat sown is as large as usual. The season for the spring crops has not yet arrived, with the exception of bere or small barley, which has been put down very generally for summer reaping. It will be ripe about the end of July. It is still too early for oats and potatoes. The ground remaining undug, in which the blighted potato crop was planted, gives to the country a neglected appearance.

In the fond hope of preserving a supply for seed, the poor con-acre peasants allowed the potato gardens to remain undug. Should the poor be disappointed in their expectations, it will remain for the landlord to till the ground with some other crop, and find remunerative labour for his tenantry to enable them to purchase food.

I would gratefully accept from you one of your improved querns as a model for the instruction of our mechanics. I am of opinion that beans, especially the white French harico, peas, and Indian corn shelled, and boiled whole, if possible, in soup, are a more substantial article of food for the poor than when ground into flour.

It should be incumbent on soup committees, to introduce flesh meat, fish, or milk, into their soup, otherwise it will not be fit food.

The multitudinous deaths in the workhouses, especially amongst children, is to be attributed to the want of animal food.

I fervently pray that the Lord may grant you every spiritual and temporal blessing.

Sir R. ROOTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 1, 1847.

I no myself the honour of submitting to you, for the consideration of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a letter from Deputy Commissary-General Dobee, applying for two half-decked launches or pinnaces to load and unload his supplies at Sligo and at Killbegs.

K. 3208

You will observe, by the enclosure to which he refers, from Captain Gilbert that the "Andromeda" has not the means of affording this assistance.

It appears to me that the best plan would be to provide lighters for this service, as in the case of Limerick, and I request that you will have the goodness to solicit the approval of their Lordships to this application, in order that two lighters may be supplied by the Admiralty for this important duty.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. J. N. GILBERT to Deputy Commissary-General DODDIE.

Killibegs, January 21, 1847.

LIEUTENANT SMITH, of H.M.S. "Lucifer," informed me it was your wish that I should lend you a pinnace for the purpose of expediting the conveyance of meal, &c., from the mills to the steamers. I am sorry to say I have no pinnace; two cutters and a jolly-boat is all I have, neither of which are fit for that purpose. I am of opinion if you demand two small launches or pinnaces, they will be allowed; one for Sligo, and one for Killibegs.

Deputy Commissary-General DODDIE to Sir R. BOUTH.

Sligo, January 23, 1847.

We meet with very great delays and difficulties at this port and Killibegs, for want of proper lighters or boats to load and discharge our supplies. I had hoped to have obtained the use of a launch from the "Andromeda," but Captain Gilbeert, in the enclosed letter, states he has not one for his own use. Might I suggest the necessity of your applying in the proper quarter for two half-decked launches or pinnaces, holding about ten tons, to be forwarded us by any man-of-war that may come to Killibegs.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

February 5, 1847.

Transmit to the Secretary of the Admiralty copies of this letter and of its enclosures, and request that he will move the Lords Commissioners to direct that two lighters may be sent with the least possible delay to Sligo, for the purpose of expediting the conveyance of Government food at that station.

Sir HUGH PIGOT to the Earl of AUCKLAND.

Cork, February 1, 1847.

THE large steamers, as your Lordship observes, are only calculated to go to very few places to discharge, and would be useless for the Relief Service in conveying supplies from the depôts; and at this season, and on such a coast, it would be very unsafe to risk such valuable property with, at this time, their more valuable cargoes: much must be left to the judgment and discretion of the Admiral or commanding officer to decide in such cases. The small steamers I shall be glad of on arrival, and can well dispose of the "Tartarus," "Porcupine," &c.

At Sligo, I have stationed the "Lucifer," full powered, and she carries upwards of 30 tons of provisions, and the zeal and quickness of the Lieutenant in his movements nearly doubles the stowage. At Westport there is the "Dasher," full power, and she carries 20 tons. At Galway I placed the "Acheron," she carries a good cargo, with 10 days' coals, but she has been but little required there, and as the Commissary can spare her, I have sent the vessel to Black Sod Bay, for the protection of the merchant vessels; but I intend the "Porcupine" for Galway in her place. In the Shannon, I have stationed the "Pluto," "Comet," and "Alban," all under powered; but for the duties of that river and the Fergus, I considered such vessels best adapted in the movements to Kilmish, Tarbert, Limerick, &c.; and then this week the "Swallow" (fast) will be ready and repaired for a two years' service.

The "Blazer" (slow) moves between Cork, Bantry, Kenmore, Dingle, &c., and has performed much good service; she carries upwards of 30 tons.

The "Tartarus" I intend placing in the Shannon for duty, with "Pluto," "Alban," "Comet," and "Swallow."

The "Dragon" will be ready by Thursday, "Bulldog" is gone to Galway to discharge. "Geyser" I expect back from Berehaven to-morrow, when she will load for the Relief Committee of West Cove, &c., in the Kinnare water. "Dix" is now loading for the Committees of Valencia, Cahirciveen, and Castle Island. I look for the return of "Blazer" to-morrow, and Commander Wisnigroff's Report about establishing a floating depôt at Long Island.

I beg to enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two orders I felt it right and safe to give, and I am sure they have done much good, as I am anxious neither to risk nor disable the vessels while on so important a service.

ENCLOSURES.

"Myrmidon," at Cork, October 9, 1846.

In the execution of any service with which you may be charged while serving under my orders on the coast of Ireland, it is my direction, should the weather become stormy, or have a threatening appearance, that you do not keep the sea in the _____, at risk to the machinery or damage to the supplies of provisions, but that you seek the nearest port or safe anchorage, and there remain until the weather moderates.

In all cases of putting into a port from stress of weather, you will, if it be possible to do so, inform me of the same by post.

HUGH PIGOT, *Rear-Admiral.**"Myrmidon," at Cork, November 20, 1846.*

In making passages from port to port, on the west coast, at this season of the year, it is my direction that you endeavour to do so in the _____, by day, as I am desirous that Her Majesty's steam-vessels, employed under my orders, should avoid keeping the sea at night, when practicable, as damage to the ships, or their machinery, will render them useless for the important duties with which they are likely to be charged in the conveyance of supplies to the distressed districts.

HUGH PIGOT, *Rear-Admiral.*

Sir HUGH PIGOT to Mr. WARD.

*"Myrmidon," at Cork,
February 3, 1847.*

Be pleased to report to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the "Blazer" arrived at 10 A.M. from Smeem and Skull, and is now loading with meal for conveyance to Kenmare, and proceeds to-night.

That the "Blazer" passed the "Bulldog" at 3 P.M. on Sunday, the 31st ult., abreast of Crookhaven, having three vessels in tow.

That the "Zephyr" steam-vessel proceeded at 6:30 A.M., this day, for Baltimore, and the "Mercury" cutter for Castletownsend, having on board provisions from the British Relief Association.

That the "Avenger" arrived at Killybegs, and the "Rhadamanthus" at Valentia, on the 30th ult.

That the "Acheron" arrived at Killybegs on the 30th ult. to unload the disabled screw vessel, "Water-Witch," freighted by the Irish Relief Association, and finding her services not required, returned to Galway on the same day. She now proceeds to Black Sod Bay.

That the "Blazer" left the "Geyser" at Berehaven, discharging her cargo to the Government dépôt.

That the "Dragon" is completing her defects in this harbour, and will be ready on the 4th instant.

The "Doe" is loading with meal for conveyance to the Relief Com m Valentia, Cahirciveen, and Castle Island; and that the "City of Poonah" has discharged her 3000 bags of rice at Haulbowline, on account of the British Relief Association.

I transmit herewith the usual daily returns. Light breezes from the northward and fine weather.

Mr. WARD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 5, 1847.

REAR Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, at Cork, having submitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, how much valuable time might be saved, if the Committee of the British Relief Association would make known their wants and wishes to him always on the spot, whereas a communication to the Agent may have to travel about various parts of the county of Cork, and then be referred back to him for a compliance, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that they entirely approve of this suggestion, and I am to request that the Lords of the Treasury would recommend to the Association to act on this suggestion.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR HUGH PIGOT to MR. WARD.

"Myrmidon," at Cork, February 2, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult. having reference to affording assistance in the way of steam-vessels to convey provisions on account of the British Relief Association, to the several Relief Committees on the south and south-west coast of Ireland, and to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and of the British Association, that I had previously placed at the agent's disposal the "Zephyr" steam-vessel, and the "Mercury" cutter, and that both vessels put to sea this morning at day-break, the former for Baltimore, with Commissioner Harston on board, and the latter for Castletownsend, having the provisions described in the margin, shipped from the stores at Haulbowline.

2. I have ordered Lieutenant Ladd to, take the "Mercury" in tow of the "Zephyr," and to cast her off abreast of Castletownsend; and directed him on his return from Baltimore, to call off the poet, and in like manner to tow the "Mercury" back to Cork, if necessary.

3. Both these vessels, so well calculated for the smaller harbours, will be at the agent's service for this duty, so long and pressingly required; and I have placed in them qualified coasting pilots.

4. I would submit for their Lordships' consideration, how much valuable time might be saved, if the Committee would make known their wants and wishes to me, always on the spot, whereas a communication to the agent may have to travel about various parts of the county of Cork, and then referred back to me for a compliance.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 5, 1847.

Transmit copy of this letter and of its enclosure, to the Chairman of the British Relief Association, for the information of the Committee.

MR. WARD to MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 5, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a letter from Rear Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot at Cork, dated the 1st instant, in which the Rear Admiral refers to the periodical returns transmitted from Her Majesty's ships and vessels under his command, and to the maintenance of discipline without the infliction of corporal punishment, and my Lords direct me, at the same time, to enclose a copy of a reply which they have directed to be addressed to the Rear Admiral on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR HUGH PIGOT to MR. WARD.

"Myrmidon," at Cork, February 1, 1847.

IN transmitting the periodical returns of Her Majesty's ships and vessels under my command, for the quarter ending the 31st December, in my letter No. 120, of yesterday's date, I beg you will be pleased to direct the attention of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the gratifying fact, that of 13 vessels of war, with a detachment of upwards of 400 supernumerary marines, not an offence has been committed calling for the infliction of corporal punishment, notwithstanding the harassing duties of the ships' companies, and the temptations they are exposed to from their frequent visits to the shore, in the transit of the provisions to the depots and the Relief Committees.

I should also observe to their Lordships, that in the previous returns from this station for the September quarter, there was but one deserved instance of corporal punishment.

MR. WARD to SIR HUGH PIGOT.

Admiralty, February 5, 1847.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 1st instant, No. 121, referring to the periodical returns of Her Majesty's ships and vessels under your command, for the quarter ending 31st of December last, and calling their Lordships' attention to the fact, that not an offence has been committed calling for the infliction of corporal punishment, and that in the previous quarter ending September last, there was but one deserved instance of corporal punishment, I am commanded by their Lordships to express to you, their deep gratification at a result so honourable to you, and to the officers and men

under your command. Their Lordships are perfectly aware of the arduous and harassing duties imposed upon the Irish squadron, and have had frequent occasion to remark the alacrity and punctuality with which they have been performed; but in expressing to you their sense of this, they must add, that the most convincing proof of the excellence of the system by which such results have been produced, is the return transmitted in your letter of to-day.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 5, 1847.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty, that their Lordships will have much pleasure in including in the next selection of papers laid before Parliament relating to the measures of relief, in which Her Majesty's Navy are performing so active and important a part, the gratifying and highly creditable fact reported by Rear Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, relating to the discipline of the force employed.

Mr. WARD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 7, 1847.

I AM COMMANDED by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward to you, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, the enclosed duplicate Report of the state of Her Majesty's ships on the coast of Ireland, dated the 4th instant. *4th February, 1847.*

Wind from the Northward.
Light Breeze.
Weather Fine.

ENCLOSURE.

A Daily Report of the State of Her Majesty's Ships on the Coast of Ireland.

Cases of Ireland Station,
From the
day of
February, 1847.

Ships.	Guns.	Captains.	Anchorage.	Under what Orders.	When she will be ready to go to sea.	Whole Complement.	Numbers of Complement, distinguishing the Rank of the Officers, and the Ratings of the Subordinates and Warrant Officers.										Actual numbers of Officers short, and Rank of Officers short, according to be filled up.	Remarks, with Names and Rank of Officers absent on duty.
							Officers.	Subordinates.	Warrant Officers.	Boys.	Marines.	NAMES of Officers appointed to be filled up.						
Myrmidon Steam vessel.	1	Lieutenant Roberts .	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	43 11* 248*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Dragon Steam frigate.	0	W. Bennett, Esq. .	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	165	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Guyard Steam ship.	6	F. Brown, Esq., Com- manding.	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	160	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Do Troop steam vessel.	2	Mr. Thomas Davis, Master Commanding.	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	80	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Zephyr Steam vessel.	6	Lieutenant Lodd .	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	80	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Minerva Troop steam vessel.	0	Mr. Scudell, Second Master Commanding.	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	60	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Blanchard Troop steam vessel.	0	Mr. J. Ayles, Master	At Cork . .	At Cork.	Cork of Cork . .	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

* Supplementary Marines.

† Supplementary Marines on Spike Island, &c.

Ships.	Ranks.	Captains.	Anchorage.	Under what Orders.	When she will be ready to go to sea.	Whole Complement.	Members short of Complement, distinguished, the Rank of the Officers, and the Rank of the Ratings of the Individuals not the Officers.										Arrived yesterday and Rank of Officers not counting to be stood up.	Remarks, with Names and Rank of Officers about on duty.
							Officers.	Subalterns.	Warrant Officers.	Party Officers.	Boats.	1 Class.	2 Class.	3 Class.	4 Class.	5 Class.		
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100. In the Suez Canal.			At Canal.															

* Supplementary Muzzies.

A DAILY REPORT of the State of Her Majesty's Ships on the Coast of Ireland—continued.

Ships.	Tonn.	Captains.	Arrangements.	Under what Orders.	When she will be ready to go to Sea.	Whole Complement.	Numbers short of Complement, designating the Rank of the Officers, and the Ratings of the Barbadoes and Warrant Officers.								Actual vacancies and Rank of Officers short requiring to be filled up.	Remarks, with Names and Rank of Officers absent on duty.	
							Subalterns.	Warrant Officers.	Petty Officers.	Boatswain.	1 Class.	2 Class.	Boys.	Marines.			Names of Officers appointed, who have not joined.
Achilles Steam vessel.	8	Lieutenant Dwyer.	Run Fasten. Galway and Black Sea Bay.	To proceed to Black Sea Bay, and afford protection to the re- fuge vessels, send- ing shelter there, from sea and plunder.	Ready for sea . .	40 48	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Mr. Bunting, Acting Assistant Surgeon.	1 Mate.	To proceed on the arrival of "Bul- dog" at Galway.
Andromeda Steam ship.	2	Mr. Johnson, Master.	Mixed at Galway	As a drift for Indian and other pro- tection.	..	21 16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dulsea Steam vessel.	2	W. V. Raul, Esq., Commander.	Westport	To follow the in- structions of the Commissioner in his conveyance of ap- plies to the dis- tressed districts.	Ready for sea . .	41	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 Mate.	..
Stitch Lugboat.	0	..	Blackstone	Put into Ballisodun to repair her mast, having been blown to leeward.	Repairing sails . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Will be ordered to discharge her cargo at Slieve.
On the Hornet-Whar Cabin.	0	Lieutenant Symes . .	Killbegs	To proceed to any port, and deliver the supplies on board shipped by the Re- doubtful Associa- tion that their agent may require.	Ready for sea . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Avenger Frigate.	6	John Polkley, Esq., Commander.	Done	To land the mail con- veyance at Kill- begs, and return to Plymouth as soon as possible.	Done	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 Master's Agent.	..
Andromeda Steam ship.	2	E. W. Griffith, Esq., Commander.	Mixed at Kill- begs.	As a drift for Indian and other pro- tection.	..	42 18	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lothian Steam vessel.	2	Lieutenant Smith, in charge.	Sligo	To follow the in- structions of the Commissioner in his conveyance of ap- plies to the dis- tressed districts.	Ready for sea . .	19 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Messrs. ERICHSEN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

110, Fenchurch Street, London,
February 6, 1847.

WE have the honour to inform you, that agreeably with your instructions, we have requested our agents at Liverpool to procure from the Colebrook Dale Company thirty iron boilers, namely,

10 boilers, of 60 gallons each.
10 do. of 80 gallons each.
10 do. of 100 gallons each.

which are to be ready for shipment within a fortnight. We have also informed them that we shall require a further similar number of boilers to be got ready the fortnight after, on their writing to us that the first order had been executed. The price of these boilers will be 6d. per gallon, according to size, subject to a discount of 10 per cent. for cash payment.

We have, as you directed, told our correspondents that they will receive instructions regarding the shipment of these boilers from Sir Randolph Routh.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 9, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this report to Sir R. Routh, and desire that he will give directions for shipping to the points at which they may be required, the boilers which may from time to time be got ready at Liverpool under this order.

Also state, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government that these boilers, as well as those which have been embarked in the "Tartarus" steam-frigate, those which are being manufactured in Woolwich Dockyard, and any others that may be otherwise provided on the part of the Government, should be forwarded to those Relief Committees which stand most in need of them, and that no payment should be required either for the boilers or for the cost of their conveyance.

Assistant Commissary-General ADAMS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Castlebar, January 23, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the letter of the Rev. P. Pounden, referred to me in regard to the Committee of Relief at Westport, dated 16th January, 1847.

I enclose copies of my letters to the Secretary, and to the Marquis of Sligo, chairman to the constituted Relief Committee in Westport; and I was yesterday evening informed that resolutions had been passed unanimously, which you will probably receive at the same time with this report, by the former to unite with the latter; and I sincerely trust that the junction of the two will greatly extend the means of relief which it is the object of Government to aid.

2. I yesterday attended the Relief Committee at Newport, Mayo; when the balance of the list of subscriptions to the Poor Relief Committee was transferred to the management of the Constituted Relief Committee at that place, of which Sir Richard O'Donnell, Bart. is chairman; and I have no doubt, as there appeared a disposition to economise the funds as regards gratuitous relief, that much good will be done by the additional means which will thus be acquired. I left with the Committee the printed regulations of Government for its guidance, and the circular, 20th January.

3. Soap will be given out when it may be practicable, and meal or other food when the distance of the residences of the destitute or other circumstances may render it expedient to do so.

I request I may be furnished with some copies of the printed Regulations and Additional Instructions for Committees.

Commander FISHBORNE to Sir R. ROUTH.

Ennis January 27, 1847.

I THOUGHT it my duty to attend the meeting of Guardians of the Scariff Union, in consequence of hearing that there was a possibility of that house being practically closed.

1451. 50. 242.

The facts are these; the house is about 1500*l.* in debt; there is a very great difficulty in collecting the rate; they have no provisions but such as are obtained by individual guardians (who have refused to supply any more); and they cannot obtain money, except on interest, but interest is not allowed by the Poor-Law Commissioners, they stating that the interest must be made up by private contributions; this the guardians state they cannot afford to make; and so the house will be practically closed next board day, if some remedy is not suggested, or the amount of money made up.

There are nearly 250 inmates sick of fever and dysentery, who, if thus left, must certainly die; and if those in fever be removed by their friends, they will spread disease through the country.

The guardians can obtain 1000*l.*, if the interest, 50*l.*, be forthcoming. If there is no fund from which this sum could be given, it were better that it should be subscribed by the Relief Committees from their funds, than that so many should be thrown upon their resources out of the house.

There are few cases of fever occurring out of the house now.

Is it right to apply the relief funds to the purchase of seed, to be sold at cost price, or may it be done only where the money is not requisite for supplying food?

I should have written more at length, but am about to attend a meeting convened by Sir Lucius O'Brien.

P.S.—I attended the meeting alluded to above. Sir Lucius O'Brien was unable from illness to attend.

The meeting was but a preliminary one; but they have sent out suggestions to the Relief Committees, to be embodied in a petition to the Government.

They were as follows:—

To provide seed.

To employ the people in the gardens of the poorer class of farmers and labourers, gratis; afterwards to employ them on productive works, for which both landlord and tenant are to be chargeable.

The question of paying the people in food was debated, but was declared not to be practicable.

There was a general admission, that there were many employed on relief works that did not require it. In this I quite agree; but this in many cases arises from the fact that the works are too extensive. I feel quite satisfied that the works in the east part of this county might be contracted with advantage. I will communicate with the officer of the Board of Works on this subject.

The meeting of the Scarriff Guardians will take place on Tuesday next, so that it would be most desirable that I should receive instructions before that period.

Captain HASTINGS to Sir R. ROUTE.

Kells, January 31, 1847.

1. I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that during the past week I have visited the Relief Committees of Trim, in the barony of Upper Naraw; Agher, in Upper Deece; Kells, in Upper Kells; and Old Castle, in Fore; some of these Committees are working well, private subscriptions and Government grants have been applied for by all, and at Kells and Old Castle soup-kitchens have been established.

2. I have every hope, that from the arrangements made by these Committees to supply food, that the distress in their neighbourhood will be greatly lessened.

3. I was enabled at the Relief Committee of Old Castle to get 26 names off the labour list, and I have called the attention of this Committee to the instruction from Government, with reference to the revision of those lists.

Remarks by Sir R.

Route.

There is communication with the Poor Law Commissioners on this point.

It is a legitimate use of the fund, if sold at cost price, and the proportion of the fund applied to this purpose, does not prevent the general application of the Commissioners funds to the supply of food, which is the principal object.

4. The tilling and cropping of the land appear to be attended to. I have not failed to call the attention of these Committees, to the necessity of sowing a larger quantity of grain, and the danger of continuing the pasture system, so much carried on in this county.

Remarks by Sir R. Routh.

It is held by many, that the pasture system has always kept the Irish population in misery. Not only in Meath, but in Mayo, no elsewhere; it drives back the population on the *sabbet* lands, which only are much tilled, and consequently these are over-populated.

In Mayo, about the miserable town of Ballinrobe, there are very large holdings, all used for feeding with grass instead of green crops, so that only herds are employed.

5. There are *complaints* on the part of the *smaller farmers* for seed, many of them have not the means of maintenance on their own lands, and have sought for support on the Public Works.

6. The Relief Committees are encouraging the farmers to employ labourers, and in some instances have been successful; but still the applications for the Public Works are numerous. At Kells the applicants were boys, whose parents being unable to maintain them with their wages, sent them to seek employment from the Committees.

7. The Relief Committees are anxious for permission to sell meal under cost price, but I made them acquainted with the instructions from Government, and they appear to be satisfied.

8. The prices of meal in the Kells market yesterday were as follows:—corn meal, 1*l* 4*s* 6*d*. a hundred; Indian meal, 1*9s* 6*d*. a hundred.

9. Fever and dysentery are becoming very prevalent in this part of the country, and I hear over all parts.

10. I have distributed three forms from the British Association to the most distressed townlands in the different districts.

11. I am in hopes by the end of next week, that I shall be able to visit the barony of Duleek, where I hear great distress prevails.

I beg to forward you the monthly and weekly returns.

This is no doubt the case in many parts of Ireland. It is ever to be borne in mind, that upwards of 600,000 *agricultural labourers* in Ireland are *land-holders*; and that about the same number depend on casual employment and are without land, but hire *casualty* yearly.

Feb. 8, 1847.

Commander DENT to Sir R. ROUTH.

Carriek-on-Shannon, January 31, 1847.

I AM not prepared to state in this early commencement of my duties, what the probable quantity of seed still remaining in the country may be; but my impressions are, that there is much more seed (oats) than is imagined, having myself counted from a car on the road from Carrigallen to Mohill, a full hundred of haggards, some very large; besides which, from information I can depend upon, there is much that has been beat out, and hid in the cabins for fear of its being stolen, the straw having been sold to the contractors that move about collecting it. I am happy to say, I think that more spades are being employed on the land, and I have little doubt, could they but be assured of a supply of seed, their attention would be immediately turned to it.

Commander DENT to Sir R. ROUTH.

Carriek-on-Shannon, January 31, 1847.

It becomes my painful duty to call your attention to the distressing state of one portion of a very large district under my superintendence, shut out nearly

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from all the benefits intended, and really conferred, by your arrangements for supplying the destitute and suffering poor with food.

It will be necessary to state that, on my way from Longford to this county, I was necessitated to sleep at Drumod, in the barony of Mohill, and under the Relief Committee of the former; but so far from it, that all its benefits are lost to this unhappy place. I find that the landed proprietors of the neighbourhood are either in a state of insolvency, or long absent from their properties, and that all applications to them have either never reached, or been totally disregarded.

The only person to whom I could refer was the sergeant of the police force, "Irion Tucker," an apparently active, intelligent, and humane man; and his report was so fearful of the dreadful state of destitution, the prevalence of dysentery and other plagues contingent upon starvation, together with the supply of food being confined to two small shopkeepers, who regulated, with a baker, the price of every article of food, taking it out of the power of the wretched inhabitants to obtain even the slightest relief, save such as the slender means of one or two persons in the neighbourhood enabled them to supply. With this dwelling on my mind, I communicated with the clergyman of the establishment, who resides at Annaduff, near Drumsnaur, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Drumod, and arranged to meet him there, which we accomplished yesterday. When having made necessary inquiries, I proceeded myself to visit and inspect some of the most wretched hovels. I will not dwell on the sights I witnessed. I wish I could forget them; they are quite beyond my powers of description. We then called upon the two or three respectable people, who, I believe, are exhausting their own means in the unavailing hope of mitigating some of the sufferings, and met with a cordial feeling of co-operation in the good work of establishing a soup depot, and held out the offerings of Government. The Rev. Mr. Shaw, whose letter to me I annex, worked with me heart and hand, he having already established a soup kitchen at his own gate at Annaduff; and to which, in my bearing, he pressed the wretched beings we were visiting to come and partake of his bounty; but I fear few, if any, have the stamina to undertake a walk of nine Irish miles out and home.

The present case is one of the most urgent necessity, and one that calls for most immediate attention, as famine, disease, and death, are everywhere rife (32 having died within a three miles' circuit since the 8th instant, three of these, I believe, in the adjoining county). Under these circumstances I feel confidence in my appeal to you for that assistance, held out in your instructions to me, placed in your power by the British Relief Association and the fostering hand of the Government; and I would most respectfully, but at the same time earnestly and pathetically, implore your immediate attention to this, pledging myself for the urgency of the case. I forward a form to the Rev. Mr. Shaw, to be filled up for transmission to the above Society; but instantaneous relief is what is wanted. I am about to proceed to the northward on my visiting duties; in the mean while have entreated Mr. Shaw to act as though he had the means, as I would sooner be responsible myself than allow the moment to pass.

It would be as well to add that the Inspecting Officer of the Board of Works (Captain Layard), informs me that no Public Works were presented for in this locality; the consequence has been, a very small proportion of the Drumod labouring class have been able to procure employment on any of the Public Works. And such as were provided for in this way, had a distance of three miles to pass over to the nearest work.

ENCLOSURE.

Rev. Mr. SHAW to Commander DENT.

*Annaduff Rectory, Drumnaur,
January 30, 1847.*

I beg to call your attention to the extreme distress existing, particularly in the northern part of the parish, around Drumod and Derrycurra, comprising the division of Annaduff, which lies in the barony of Mohill. The deaths from starvation in that district have been numerous; and as there is no resident landed proprietor able to relieve the poor, and it is remote from the Relief Committee at Mohill to which it is nominally attached, the whole locality is overwhelmed with destitution. If Government could be induced to lend them aid towards the establishment of a soup shop, and, if possible, a meal or provision store, it would be most desirable; and I could promise some local contributions, though, from the circumstances of the neighbourhood,

*Remark by Sir R.
Evelin.*

The Earl of Leitrim has formed a separate Committee for the electoral division in which Drumod is situated.
Feb. 24, 1847.

they might be small. In fact the same cause which renders the distress so urgent, namely, the want of resident gentry, renders the difficulty of procuring subscriptions great. There are some respectable ladies who would kindly exert themselves in distributing soup, &c.; and, under the immediate eye of the constabulary, the work could be effectually carried on. For myself, I may say that I will take any part that may be needful to further the undertaking, knowing as I do the wretchedness of the poor in that neighbourhood, and their remoteness from every means of relief, and even from markets where food can be had on any reasonable terms. It is computed that three-fourths, perhaps seven-eighths, of the population are utterly destitute.

Assistant Commissary-General ADAMS to Sir R. ROUTH.

Westport, February 1, 1846.

WITH reference to the letter of the Rev. Patrick McManus, dated the 21st ultimo, which appeared in the Dublin "Freeman," referred to me for my information, I proceeded on Saturday to Louisburgh, in the parish of Killgower, barony of Murrisk.

1. Mr. John Gawey, the Chairman of the Committee, absent in Dublin, was expected to return this morning, but he did not. I was desirous to see him before submitting my report upon the subjects adverted to by the reverend gentleman. The only member of the Relief Committee on the spot was the Rev. Robert Potter, perpetual curate, who had collected elsewhere subscriptions to the amount of 74*l.* 5*s.*, and was selling, under cost price, whole, or wheaten meal at 2*s.* 6*d.* per stone, the price in Westport being 2*l.*, and the cost of cartage 10*s.* per ton. The balance which may remain on hand Mr. Potter will transfer to the Treasurer of the Committee, to secure a donation from Government.

2. The Rev. P. McManus, P.P., has ceased to act with the Committee, having, as I was informed, resigned; but I expressed to his curate my hope that he would resume his seat, and co-operate with the other members on his return.

He has, I understand, received 100*l.* from the Dublin Committee; and I have expressed it as my opinion that there would be no objection to his purchasing Indian meal from the depot at Westport, on account of the Committee.

I have urged on all parties that it is of the utmost importance not to sell under the cost-price; gratuitous relief only to be given as laid down in the circular letter of the 20th ultimo; and that supplies should be obtained in the market when practicable.

3. The Rev. Mr. Potter expected by the "Water Witch" two boilers, to establish a soup-kitchen in Louisburgh, but they have not yet, owing, I believe, to some accident to that vessel, been received; and I regret to learn from Count Strelitzky that there are none in the vessels advised by the British Association.

4. Gratuitous relief to 56 families is afforded by the Society of Friends three times per week in the town, by the issue of one quart of meal each to the father and mother, one pint to children over 15 years, and half-a-pint to those under that age.

5. I have seen your letter to Assistant Commissary-General Lister, C. 1566, and I respectfully submit that it will be very desirable, at least for the present, not to recognize Sub-Committees in direct transactions with the Government, but that they should be appointed from, and accountable to, the constituted Relief Committees, the Treasurer of which alone should receive contributions on account of the district or parish.

6. Adverting to the ninth paragraph of my report, No. 2, of the 14th ult., I infer from the postscript to your letter, C. 1560, that subscriptions or donations, wherever collected (excepting, I imagine, those of the large Relief Societies), will be admitted to obtain Government donations.

7. The destitution in this extensive parish is very great, and particularly in the neighbourhood of the town; and whatever donation it may be decided to make in aid of any sums which may be collected or placed at the disposal of the Committee, I beg to submit it should be on the most liberal scale. There are very few resident proprietors who can contribute to any amount.

8. Cases of fever, and dysentery particularly, I am informed, prevail to a much greater extent than is usual at this season of the year.

9. Deaths are stated to have occurred from starvation. I have the names of those of four between the 9th and 24th ultimo, repeated to me by the police sergeant.

10. Some instances of complaints against subordinates in the employ of the

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Board of Works I have laid before the Inspecting Officer of that department, who will, I feel assured, cause inquiries to be made to ascertain if they are well grounded, and will take such steps on the subject as may appear to be necessary.

11. I intended to have proceeded yesterday to Ballina had I not received intimation that the meeting of the Committee had been postponed till Wednesday, to enable some of the members to attend to-day at a presentment to be made at Newport. I shall therefore be there to-morrow night, and from thence repair to Killybeg, Ballycastle, Bellmullet, and Crossmolina, agreeably to the instructions contained in your letter C. 1560; and on my return to this neighbourhood I hope to find the Chairman of the Loughborough Relief Committee, and to make arrangements to ensure a working quorum, and that additional members may be recommended, in order that Sub-Committees may be established when necessary or expedient.

Commander FISHERBURNE to Sir R. ROUTH.

Ennis, February 2, 1847.

I HAVE seen too little of the country to be enabled to furnish you with a detailed account, but hasten to send you this as the result of my observations.

With respect to the amount of corn in the country, judging from the limited extent over which I have travelled, as compared with the whole country, there cannot be less than 120,000 barrels of different kinds of grain; but I have been told that the greatest amount of grain is in that part of the country which I have visited. Colonel Wyndham's tenantry appear to possess the greatest quantity.

There have been great abuses in forming Relief lists. Great injustice has been done to destitute individuals, so that I was induced to write a circular fixing on the Committees the responsibility of allowing any one to starve because of not being returned on their lists for relief. I will send a copy immediately if it is struck off.

There is great difficulty in finding out the state of the people, for those who really know are often little disposed to tell you; the greatest complaint is often made where there is the least occasion to complain; and the appearance is no guide, for dirty habits are so prevalent that even comparatively rich people wear the trappings of poverty, and thrust themselves on the roads as starving, though they have money in the bank, to the exclusion of the destitute; and the worst feature is that they exhibit no compunction when shown that they thus steal the bread out of the starving man's mouth.

I got a man to take me into the worst parts of the town of Scuriff, and I can safely say that I saw more wretchedness at Dingle, during the month of September, 1846, in one street, than I have seen in all the district which I have visited in Clare.

There are a class, and these numerous, employed under the Board of Works, who I believe were never better off, and those above them certainly are much better off than ever; but, there are a class, such as widows with families, the sickly, and mere labourers with large families, who are suffering.

Remarks by Sir R. Routh.

If the grain stated be all oats, it would yield 13,440,000 lbs. of meal.

The reclaimed land in the whole county, arable and pasture, extends only to 445,000 statute acres.

There are 26,928 land holdings, exclusive of 96 connected with towns, and 23,642 of these are small farms, none exceeding 15 acres.

The pastures in Clare are extensive.

A circular has this disadvantage, that it does not fix the evil doings where the onus truly rests; but this contains some very useful observations—one in particular, with respect to the horses employed on the Public Works.

The effect assigned to the exclusion of persons from the works, is somewhat at variance with the expectation to resume labour on the lands, because, while there is labour on the lands, none can starve by exclusion from the works.

The reluctance on the part of those who must know the real condition of the people, to the establishment of soup shops, appears to me conclusive evidence that they do not think their condition to be very bad, at least while they have work. I am told by Roman Catholics that the priests' Christmas dues were never better paid.

In one bank the deposits from farmers are 82,000*l.*, that is, 12,000*l.* more than last year; there is a corresponding increase in the other bank, and in the savings' bank also the sum deposited is 38,000*l.*

Sickness there is, but that has been much owing to the late wet weather, as it has decreased with the change of weather; and from the circumstance of so many mechanics accustomed to indoor employment having been obliged to go on the roads, including tailors, shoemakers, weavers, carpenters, and others, who earn little from not being accustomed to the work. The wages which some men are able to earn on the roads is quite beyond what the farmers can give, and prevents them from accepting farming work, though offered 1*s.* per day, and 1*s.* per day and diet. The farmer cannot afford to give more than 1*s.* a-day here, their farming is so little productive, for want of enterprise and knowledge, nor can he guarantee constant work; this, together with the fact that the labourers on daily pay, under the Board of Works, do very little, may account for the preference.

Cash payments have great attractions, and have been promised them by men upon whom they know they can rely, but they have refused. I see no alternative but that of daily reducing the labour lists, or leaving the land untilled.

A clergyman at Newmarket offered 7*s.* per week, but it was refused by ten men.

Drunkenness is much on the increase amongst them, and a lavish expenditure. This day I heard of four brothers spending 1*l.* in drink; the priest was my informant; the fact was not then established, but was about to be investigated.

Ten shillings per ton was offered for drawing meal from Limerick to Newmarket, a distance of 12 Irish miles, and was refused, the ordinary fare used to be 4*s.*

With respect to horses, the Committees are sometimes not to blame, as the engineers send in a requisition for horses. While I was at Newmarket to-day 28 additional horses were required. Some stringent order ought to be given respecting the employment of horses, or the land will not be tilled, and the difficulty of getting food in the inland places will be increased.

The weather did not admit of their doing much, since I have been in the country till now, and this day there were many in the fields, yet the number was far less than there ought to have been.

There is much wheat sown, and some in process of being sown. Oats appears to be that which they will generally sow; some, however, will sow turnips and mangel wurzel, and they

Remarks by Sir R. Esch.

All retail dealers will oppose soup shops.

When the country tailors and shoemakers are obliged to go to road-work, or find it more profitable than their trades, although earning little, there must be great local distress.

These are extraordinary facts when considered with the statement of the first part of the report as to the exclusion of destitute labourers, and the necessity of charging upon Relief Committees a responsibility for the lives of persons who may be starved by exclusion from the works.

In forming an opinion upon these subjects it is necessary to consider all the facts.

When the new measures commence, spade labour and husbandry will probably be one of the conditions of relief, which would improve the soil and lessen the expense of supporting horses.

This shows that the remarks on the impossibility of obtaining labourers for farm works, may be founded on occurrences in particular localities, or arise from some peculiar circumstances.

Thus in forming a general opinion, all these considerations should be admitted so as to preserve its consistency; and looking to some of these remarks, it may probably be found that more will be done on the land than in ordinary years.

are even desirous of sowing parsnips and carrots. There is no indisposition to plant potatoes, but there is scarcely any seed.

The general opinion is that a great quantity of the land will be left unsown, if the Government do not give the seed and pay the people while sowing it.

Deputations from the Relief Committees are to meet on Thursday and Friday to draw up a petition to that effect. Sir Lucius O'Brien and his father-in-law, Mr. Fitzgerald, are of opinion that the great proportion of the land will be sown, but principally by the class above the holders, that is, the small farmers will let it for the crop; others they think are saving up to buy seed, and hence the silver does not return to the banks.

I am disposed to think with these latter gentlemen, yet not entirely, as I think that much of that silver is in circulation, and is required for circulation, because of all cash payments, no trust,—and hence it is that much of it does not return to the banks.

But we further differ, in that they think it sufficient that the land should be planted, no matter by whom, and even better that it should not be by the small farmer, that he should become what he ought to be, a labourer. I quite agree to the principle that it is not well to have a pauper tenantry; but they will not be reduced to the condition of labourers unless refused relief on the works and forced to sell their interest; and if this is not intended, it were better to put a sum of money into their pockets by helping them to produce rather than they should let their land, that so the Relief Works may be relieved of them next year.

I have drawn out a plan to be presented to the meeting on Thursday, which is to be worked out by themselves. It will at least throw on them the blame for a deficiency of food if they do not adopt it, and may stimulate them to exertion.

I send a copy of it.

The fishermen are all, I may say, on the Public Works; why, I cannot particularly state yet, except it be that they receive cash payments and quick returns, and have less trouble. They do not like trouble. (This has been advanced as an objection to green cropping.) Fish that used to be very plentiful in this town is not now to be had.

Since I commenced this letter I have travelled through several districts, and have observed an increased amount of land tilled since my last visit.

Remark by Sir R. Roath.

Adverting to the annexed statement that 14,500 can be collected in subscriptions in the county from 186,000 persons, it is to be observed, that in the county there are but 48,981 families. All the persons (both male and female), aged 15 and upwards, amount but to 171,328. Of the families, 24,650 live in fourth class houses, which are described in the census tables as "*small cabins, having only one room.*"

Feb. 8, 1847.

ENCLOSURES.

GENTLEMEN,

Ennis, February 3, 1847.

In order to save the time which would necessarily be lost did I wait till I was enabled to visit all the Committees, I write to offer a few suggestions upon points requiring immediate attention.

1st.—That a great benefit would accrue to the country, but especially to the poor people, if

the Committees would induce them to till and plant their plots of ground, to facilitate which the Committees might substitute another of the family for the head or ordinarily supporting member for that purpose, stating on the list the cause of the substitution.

2ndly. That the registries be kept with the names in alphabetical order in each townland, and in every electoral division, or parish, to facilitate the duties of all, prevent fraud, and that the men may have work allotted to them near their dwellings.

3rdly. That the list of applicants for work, returned to the Board of Works, should be made out and filled with more care; till this is attended to, the Committee cannot be surprised if a man they return is not checked for pay, but another in lieu, thus occasioning endless complaints, these lists often not affording sufficient for identification, one or all of the following being omitted:—townland, age, extent of holding, or amount of stock.

It has happened that Committees, and even individuals of Committees, have sent men to work on the public roads, supposing that every person returned on the Applicants' Lists was entitled to work and receive pay. I would beg to observe, that it is the province of the inspecting officer under the Board of Works to determine who of those on the "Applicants' List" shall work.

Having heard complaints from several parts of the country, that labourers, gardeners, and others, had left their employments and were received on the Public Works, I beg to refer the Committee to the Treasury Minute of the 31st August, 1846, wherein it is directed, "That no person should be employed on any Relief Works who can obtain employment on any other public works, or in farming, or other private operations," and would suggest that those persons be immediately removed from the Relief Lists. This direction has not been given by the Government without a very sufficient reason, as the withdrawal of labourers from agriculture must tend to impoverish the country.

I find that some Committees had not kept any Registry of Applicants, not knowing that such was directed. I beg to draw their attention to the 19th Article of the "Instructions for the Guidance of Committees," wherein it is specifically stated that a "Registry is to be kept." The consequence of this omission has been, that the List of Applicants which should have been filled from this Registry, has been sometimes returned to the officers of the Board of Works without due care, and has contained the names of many who did not come within the prescribed limitations, while the names of some who did come within the limitations, nay, even the destitute, were omitted. No Committee can be absolved from blame, if through him or any other neglect of the Instructions, any person should fail to be returned and identified by the description given of him, and so starve for want of the relief he applied for, and was entitled to. If the Registries are filled in the order directed in the Instructions of the Government, viz., those who have no means of subsistence first, and those who have other means of subsistence last, none can starve for want of relief (if they apply.) Further, if the Instructions were more strictly attended to by all Committees, there would be far fewer complaints.

In some districts there are (comparatively) no horses employed, while in others there are a great many. This is a great abuse, and requires immediate remedy, the more particularly as there is abundance of work open to them for agricultural purposes. The object of relief work is to afford a means for feeding men and not horses. The carrying trade is much limited by this improper appropriation of horse work, and may account in some measure for the deficiency of food in remote inland districts; the carriers charge more than double their ordinary fare, and take only what goods they please.

In the prosecution of the proposed Government plan, it is probable that the Public Works will be gradually contracted; therefore, it is most desirable that the Committees should use every means to get the agricultural labourers to return to their natural employments, shewing them that by refusing they are their own greatest enemies, that though they injure the prosperity of the country in general by withholding their labour from productive works, they injure themselves most of all, for there cannot be any extensive and permanent reduction of the prices of food, till there is a large supply of home-grown food in the market, and they unhappily know that while the prices are high, the labouring man's food is prospectively scanty, but the rich man's is undiminished.

The Committees will confer a great benefit upon their country, by finding agricultural work for the poor people, and will confer a still greater upon the poor man himself.

The poor man, if not comforted under his privations, may at least be induced to be patient during the high prices, and the Committee man restrained from an injudicious attempt to control the markets by being told that the alternative unavoidably offered is, that of high prices and little food, or low prices and no food, (very soon).

1st.—Because high prices insure economy of the food in the country, without which economy it would not last out the voyage.

2ndly.—As France is in the market, if the price here is low, much of that intended for us will go to the French market, while on the contrary, if our prices are high, a greater proportion of that intended for the French market will come into ours.

3rdly.—The prospect of sharing in the high prices will induce the farmers to cultivate more extensively, and so compensate the markets for the loss of the potatoes, and insure to the poor man a sufficiency of nutritious food. And let the farmers with capital be assured, that nothing but home grown produce will bring down the markets, and that he will not do his duty towards his countrymen, unless he embarks his capital freely in the production of food.

I have, &c.

E. GARDINER FISHBOURNE, R.N.,

Inspecting Officer of Relief Committees for Clare.

To the Chairmen and Relief Committees
of the County of Clare.

CONSIDERING the importance of providing a fund for procuring seed for the poorer classes and the necessity for a guarantee that all shall be interested directly in the right use and economy of that fund, I propose that subscriptions shall be entered into throughout the county, that shall embrace all, not even excluding the ladies.

There are in the county:—

	£.	s.	d.	
100,000 who can subscribe	0	0	6	less or more.
50,000	0	1	0	"
20,000	0	2	0	"
10,000	0	3	0	"
	0	5	0	"
5,000	0	10	0	"
1,000	1	0	0	"

Amounting to a sum of 14,500*l*.

This sum should be entrusted to two or three men of business, for the purpose of importing all suitable kinds of seed, to be divided amongst the Relief Committees, in quantities proportionate to the subscriptions from each Relief District, who shall direct its sale at cost price, half cost, or one-third the cost, as the circumstances of the individual, and they shall deem expedient, two sureties being given that the remainder of cost price shall be paid after harvest; and if turned twice, which it may be in a short time, 25,000*l*. worth of seed may be purchased, which taking an average of cheap and dear seeds, will be sufficient to sow 20,000 acres of land; the worth of which, per acre, to the poor men, will be at least 30*s*., for if he has to procure a substitute for the produce of an acre, before it can have reached him through the merchant, miller, and baker, it will have cost him 35*s*.. The value of the produce then will be 20,000 $\times$ 30 = 600,000*s*., and if this principle be applied to all Ireland, will be 600,000 $\times$ 33 = 19,800,000*s*.. Thus with an amount of self-denial, infinitely less than is practised in England (for to my knowledge, servants have given up their beer, that the proceeds may be allocated for the benefit of the Irish), with the blessing of God, an amount of wealth for the poorer classes may be created greater than could be realized by England's raising her Income Tax from 5 to 30 per cent., and dividing the surplus in Ireland.

Mr. VOULES to Deputy Commissary-General DORRIS.

Ballina, February 3, 1847.

IN reply to your letter of the 31st January, I beg to inform you that I have attended the Relief Committees at Ballina, Crossmolina, Ballycastle, and Killala, urging them to open soup shops in all parts of their districts; and I have also visited several localities where it was considered desirable to establish them.

The Crossmolina Relief Committee have established three (at Crossmolina, Enniskoe, and Owenmore). The soup-kitchen at Enniskoe is already in full operation. At the other places they are selling meal, and have private kitchens distributing soup until their plans are matured. They also propose to open one and perhaps two others in that district.

The Ballina Committee have a soup-kitchen, for gratuitous distribution, within the town, and are making arrangements to extend it by the sale of soup; they have another in partial operation at Canamore; a Sub-Committee has been formed to establish one in the parish of Ballinskerry immediately, and we propose to establish a fourth in the neighbourhood of Rappa.

The Killala Committee have established one in the town; others are in progress at Kincon, Templemany, Kilcummen, and Lacken, the two former are in partial operation, in Kilcummen and Lacken; the two former are in partial operation. In Kilcummen and Lacken sub-Committees have been formed, under the District Relief Committee, who are applying to absentee landlords for subscriptions.

At Ballycastle, I succeeded in passing resolutions for the establishment of five soup-shops in the district, and the Sub-Committees for each are now applying for subscriptions in the neighbourhood, and to absentee landlords and others. I have promised to take an early opportunity of visiting them again, when I will report to you what progress they have made. Mr. Henri, the inspecting-officer of the Coast Guard, has rendered me much assistance.

I attend a Relief Meeting at Foxford, on Friday next, to assist in establishing soup-shops in that neighbourhood; the chairman, Mr. George Vaughan Jackson, has, in the mean time, been exerting himself to put the thing in train, obtaining subscriptions, &c.

Captain STORROND to Sir R. ROUTH.

Newross, February 3, 1847.

A GREAT many farmers were present at the Relief Committee meeting of Mullinaval, county of Kilkenny, and an opportunity offered for opening a discussion on farming. It was agreed by all, that the land was not being prepared as it ought to be for spring sowing, and that agriculture generally was in a very neglected and backward state.

It was then proposed, and agreed to, that the farmers should assemble two hours sooner every day of meeting, and that they should, by discussion, and reading pamphlets and papers on farming, endeavour to improve their knowledge on the subject; and I hope it may excite some degree of emulation amongst them, and induce them to attempt an improved system of agriculture on at least some part of their farms.

Remitted by Sir R. Routh.

This Committee might be usefully assisted by a walk containing about three-hundred acres of land in Ireland, which the Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society recently visited the Under-Secretary, with a view to have it published for distribution.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieutenant-Colonel JONES and Sir R. ROUTH.

February 5, 1847.

I SEND herewith thirty copies of each of the following documents:—

1. The bill now before Parliament, for the relief of the present distress.
2. Letter from Sir George Grey to the Lord Lieutenant, on the subject of this bill; and
3. Draft of instructions to the Commissioners who are to be appointed to carry the measure into effect.

And I am desirous to request that you will immediately send copies of these documents to the officers employed under your Board in different parts of Ireland, in whose discretion and local knowledge you have most confidence, and instruct them to furnish you, with the least practicable delay, with all the information in their power on the following points, in reference to their respective districts, or to other districts with which they are well acquainted:—

1. What are the names and extent of the districts of each Relief Committee?
2. Are relief districts continuous with electoral districts, or could they be made so without extensive alteration?
3. In those cases in which the relief and electoral districts are not continuous, which of the two is the largest, and what particular relation do they bear to each other in point of extent?
4. What are the names of the persons constituting the present Relief Committees, classed, in respect to each Committee, in the order in which they are most to be depended upon for carrying out the proposed measures?—and add any confidential remarks that may be required for the guidance of the Commissioners in making a proper selection.
5. How are the individuals composing the present Committee circumstanced with regard to intimidation, or other undue influences on their proceedings?
6. What funds has each of the present Committees available in cash or stores of food, and at what rate are they expending or adding to them?—and

7. What individuals are there resident in each Union, whose firmness of character, habits of business, and station and condition, would make them fit members of the Union Finance Committees, which are to watch over and control the proceedings of the Relief Committees.

You are requested to deliver the answers, as they are received, to Sir John Burgoyne, who will communicate with the Lord Lieutenant on the subject of them.

The draft of the instructions is a strictly confidential document; and you are requested to caution the officers to whom you send them to regard them as such, and to return them to you with their answers.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieutenant-Colonel JONES.

February 5, 1847.

PRAY inform me how far we may calculate on some of the best officers on your temporary establishment being available to act as inspectors under the [c. 2.] N

Commission. Their removal might cost you some temporary inconvenience; but it is of such paramount importance to put our whole strength into the new system, that I am convinced you will see the necessity of giving us, or rather yourself, for you will be one of the most important members of the new Commission, all the support in your power, especially when it is remembered, that the relief works will be diminished in proportion as the new system is satisfactorily established.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Office of Public Works,
February 8, 1847.*

THE papers alluded to in your letter of the 5th instant arrived safe, and will be sent out to the most intelligent of our officers, for reports on the several points required by your letter.

We shall be disposed to place at the orders of Sir John Burgoyne, in the first instance, any of the undermentioned officers, viz. :—

Major Ainslie.	Captain Herbert.
Captain Burnester.	Lieutenant Hamilton.
Captain Farrer.	Captain Kennedy.
Captain Gordon, 59th.	Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzmaurice.
Lieutenant Hotham.	

We shall endeavour to make arrangements for the discharge of the duties performed by them during the transition; of course the services of inspectors will be immediately required, and they will necessarily be withdrawn from our service immediately upon the opening of the Commission.

I am happy to be able to state, that in Galway market, on Saturday, wheat fell 5s. per barrel, and oats 3s. 6d. ditto; and I have also heard the same from other parts of the country.

Mr. PIM to Sir R. PEEL.

Dublin, 27th of first Month, 1847.

I TRUST I may be excused in again trespassing on thy valuable time by forwarding the inclosed copy of a letter received from a Friend on whose accuracy I fully rely. These or similar proceedings are no doubt known to thee, yet another statement may not be useless. It is evident that some landlords, forgetful of the claims of humanity, and regardless of the public welfare, are availing themselves of the present calamity to effect a wholesale clearance of their estates.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. TOSCHUNTER to Mr. PIM.

*Galway, 23d of first Month, 1847.
Kilroy's Hotel.*

I ARRIVED here to-day and find a very great number of letters awaiting me, amongst others are two from Ballina, on the subject of the late Quarter Sessions business there.

Both letters are from highly respectable parties. I find the number of processes actually entered to be 6400, being higher than I could have conceived; the greater number being for the use and occupation of land, and a great number of such being for cow-acres. The number of processes issued was, I am informed, over 13,000. The issues and entries being alike more than four times the number ever before heard of at a Quarter Sessions at Ballina.

Such proceedings will totally ruin the decent farmers who have hitherto had some property, and add most seriously to the expense of supporting the destitute. In fact it will go far to depopulate the country, for such proceedings must ere long create disturbance and retaliation.

I annex two or three extracts.

Ballina, January 18, 1847.

"The greatest number of the processes were at the suit of the landlord against the tenant, for the use and occupation of the land up to the last gale day. This proceeding has had the effect of depopulating the country, for the people have fled with all they possessed to prevent their property from being seized or themselves thrown into prison under decrees. This, it is supposed, is the effect the landlords were anxious to produce, and calculated upon, as the means of getting the land into their own hands. In fact, there are districts in this barony where whole townlands hitherto occupied by 400 to 500 persons are now uninhabited. Some of the processes were for con-acre oats, and some for con-acre potatoes."

Ballina, January 18, 1847.

"The greatest number thereof were for con-acre and other rents, and most of these cases were undefended by the tenant; the lands consequently, in many instances, fell back into the landlords' possession. One of our solicitors who had a great share of these cases to conduct says, the cost will amount to more than can be recovered from the proceedings, the parties making off as fast as they can, and many trying to get off to America."

MR. PIM to SIR R. PEEL.

Dublin, 28th of first Month, 1847.

AFTER troubling thee so lately with a letter, I fear I shall be considered intrusive in again addressing thee, yet I am induced to do so in the belief that the accompanying document will prove interesting in connection with the measures now before Parliament for affording relief to the destitute.

They are the original documents sent up to the Central Relief Association, of which I am one of the secretaries, by a Parochial Relief Society in the Queen's County, with the object of obtaining some assistance.

I am informed that the subscribers embrace every class, down to those scarcely removed above want. The country is agricultural, Castletown being a small country town. The secretary is a country shopkeeper, who appears to have passed some time in an attorney's office. Many of the Committee are small farmers, holders of 10 to 20 acres of land.

The arrangements appeared to me so good that I have thought it might interest thee, as showing what can be done when parties set to work in earnest to do their own business.

I greatly fear any plan of Government relief will fail in the *really destitute districts* from the want of effective machinery to work it. What is to be done when all are destitute, except the clergyman, and when the landlords are absentees?

On this subject I venture to send thee a letter received some days since from a clergyman in county Clare.

I have preferred sending original documents as more authentic than copies.

ENCLOSURE.

To the Committee of the Society of Friends for the Relief of Distress in Ireland.

ON the part of the Castletown (Queen's County) Relief fund, we respectfully submit the claims of the destitute poor for aid from your Society.

Our Committee was formed in the first week in December last, and you may perceive by our subscribers list, herewith sent, the number of poor people that have come forward and joined us in relieving the wants of their yet poorer neighbours.

We commenced with the system of dispensing money in preference to food for the following reasons. First, our parish is a rural and partly mountainous one, and of large extent, say ten by four miles, and the population in great measure subsisted on, not alone potatoes, but also milk, and the latter having along with the potato nearly disappeared, in consequence of people being necessitated to sell their cows, we considered that money was essential to meet many cases of distress where meal would be inapplicable, particularly in cases of sickness, which were becoming very numerous. Besides we apprehended great evil likely to arise from congregating

* I have a memorandum from the writer of this letter to say that he finds the number of real processes was over 4600.

the destitute poor of the whole parish at one place to receive their several portions of food, inasmuch as the mutual exchange of a sense of their extreme sufferings, evidently tended to aggravate them, and in one instance appeared likely to lead to outrage. We also apprehended the practice of giving food in the usual mode to people thus collected, tends greatly to do away with that degree of self respect which yet remains with many of the peasantry, and to sink them into degradation.

We, therefore, in the first place, have each townland in our parish represented on the Committee by two or more persons resident therein, who are expected to pay domiciliary visits and report on the condition of their poor, on which the Committee send by these representatives such amount of money as may have been determined on for each family, and these representatives revisit each family with the relief, which is thus brought home to the poor family, and the scanty meal thus procured shared on their own hearth.

Great quietness and comparative contentment appear to be maintained in the parish on this system. Upon report by any of the townland representatives of any instance of misapplication of the relief money, such case is immediately discontinued, and only one such instance has come to our knowledge. So great and pressing is the want of food that the money is not appropriated otherwise.

This system also saved us the expense of a staff for storing, weighing and measuring the food, the erection of boilers for soup, &c., an important consideration with our limited funds.

We beg reference to our summary of distribution, showing number of families and persons relieved, and amount given, whereby appears the large number of persons that have been relieved for the small sum of 114*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

Notwithstanding our experience of the utility of this mode of relief, still we are anxious to yield to the practical benevolence of your institution, and to adopt any other form of relief that you may be so kind as to recommend.

Intresting you to bear in mind the local circumstances of our parish as a rural district, and if you conceive relief by food a better mode, we submit for your consideration and approval, whether molasses with Indian meal would not be preferable to soup which should be carried considerable distances.

When furnished with your list of queries, we shall give them as distinct answer as possible. And in conclusion, again implore your favourable consideration of the situation of the poor in said parish of Castletown.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

JOSEPH S. PHELAN,
THOMAS ROBERTS.

P.S.—Please direct reply to No. 15, Bachelor's Walk.

COMMITTEE, viz., Reverend Patrick KELLY, Chairman; Martin DELANY, Secretary;
Michael WALSH, Treasurer.

Castletown:—

Joseph S. Phelan, Esq.
Hugh O. H. Phelan, Esq.
James Dunne, Esq.
Edward Flood, Esq.
Mr. Denis Maher.
Mr. James Deeling.
Mr. George Clements.

Ballycleary, Killricheen, Coole, and Campelone:—

Mr. Thomas Roberts.
Mr. Patrick Campion.
Mr. John Melbourne Coole.

Cudda:—

Mr. Joseph Dempsey.
Mr. John Melbourne Cudda.
Mr. Joseph Fitzpatrick.

Rushall:—

Mr. Daniel Sawyer.
Mr. Thomas Phelan.
Mr. Alexander C. Stoker.

Mannin:—

Mr. John Roberts.
Mr. William Sarago.

Clashasmuck and Ballatransa:—

Mr. Martin Carroll.
Mr. Daniel Horan.

Loran:—

Mr. John Delany.
Mr. William Delany.

Campbell, Aghafan, and Knockacollar:—

Mr. Daniel Phelan.

Mr. John Murnell.

Peasfield and Butter Island:—

Mr. Peter Dooly.

Badgerhill and Derryconton:—

Mr. James Campion.

Mr. Edward Holland.

Paddock, Deerpark, and Rushin:—

Mr. John Roerke.

Mr. William Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Charles Murphy.

Mr. John Bennett.

Gleabower, Clonan, and Ballyhoan:—

Mr. Patrick Campion.

Mr. Thomas Burke.

Mr. John Fitzpatrick.

SCHEDULE of TOWNLANDS in Parish, showing the Proprietors thereof, and the Amount each subscribed (if any), and also what Amount distributed on same.

Proprietor's Name.	Townland.	Amount subscribed (if any).	Amount Distributed.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Sir Charles H. Coote, Bart.	Ballyhoan Butter Island Coil and Campdore Derrycon Drins and Deerpark Knockbreack Loran Maxim Paddock Rushin Rushell Shanagosa	10 0 0	66 17 2
Thomas Wyse, Esq.	Badger Island and Cudda	5 0 0	10 8 6
The Countess Cassin, and Hamilton Fitzgerald	Clonan and Gleabower	Mr. Fitzgerald 20 0 0	16 9 6
William Kemmle, Esq.	Ballyhoan and Derry Canton	5 0 0	5 18 6
J. W. Fitzpatrick, Esq.	Aghafan, Castletown, Campbell, Gush, and Knockacollar	..	12 3 10
Duke of Buckingham	Cheshamuck	..	2 7 0
Nan and Drought	Newton	..	0 11 0
			114 15 6

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS in aid of the POOR RELIEF FUND of the PARISH of CASTLETOWN, QUEEN'S COUNTY.

(Note—All the Subscribers reside within the Parish of Castletown save and except those marked thus *.)

Names of Subscribers.	Residence.	Amount.			Names of Subscribers.	Residence.	Amount.		
		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
*Hamilton Fitzgerald, Esq.					Mr. John Gorman	Ballycormac	1	0	0
*Sir Charles H. Coote, Bart.	Ballyfinn	10	0	0	Widow Kelly	Do	1	0	0
*Thomas Wynn, Esq.	Waterford	5	0	0	Mr. Bryan Sweeney	Do	1	0	0
*William Kemmis, Esq.	Killman	5	0	0	Mr. Edward Phelan	Do	1	0	0
Edward Flood, Esq.	Castletown	5	0	0	John P. Helton, Esq.	Peasfield	1	0	0
Peter Roe, Esq.	Rushall	5	0	0	Mr. James Delany	Paddock	0	15	0
*Thomas Fitzpatrick, Esq.	Railway Works	5	0	0	Mr. Robert Jones	Castletown	0	10	0
*Mr. Thomas Roberts	Nere Mills	5	0	0	Mr. Joseph Vance	Do	0	10	0
Mr. Michael Walsh	Castletown	5	0	0	Mr. Denis O'Brien	Ballycleary	0	10	0
Mrs. Thomas Roberts	Nere Mills	3	0	0	Mr. John Wheeler	Do	0	10	0
and Co.					Mr. John Bennett	Cadda	0	10	0
Rev. Patrick Kelly, P.P.	Castletown	3	0	0	Widow Finlay	Do	0	10	0
Joseph S. Finlay, Esq.	Do	3	0	0	Mr. Thomas Murphy	Do	0	10	0
James Dunne, Esq.	Do	3	0	0	Mr. John Worrell	Camploane	0	10	0
Mrs. Butler	Do	3	0	0	Mrs. Fitzpatrick	Badger Island	0	10	0
George Roe, Esq.	Rushall	2	0	0	Mr. William May	Cashtetrach	0	10	0
Charles Murphy, Esq.	Rushall	2	0	0	Mr. John Marshall	Aghaba	0	10	0
*William Roe, Esq.	Mountnash	2	0	0	Mr. James Gleeson	Crimma	0	10	0
Mr. John Delany	Loran	3	0	0	Widow Phelan	Paddock	0	10	0
Mr. Patrick Fitzpatrick	Do	3	0	0	Mr. Barney Phelan	Do	0	10	0
Mr. James Carroll	Ballytarnan	3	0	0	Mr. Michael Phelan	Do	0	10	0
Mr. Patrick Campion	Coola	2	0	0	Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick	Clonan	0	10	0
Mr. Daniel Phelan	Campbell	3	0	0	Mr. Patrick Phelan	Rushin	0	10	0
The Rev. Wm. Maher, C.C.	Castletown	2	0	0	Mr. Patrick Phelan	Shanagooon	0	10	0
Joseph Fitzpatrick, Esq.	Cadda	1	17	6	Mr. Patrick Bowden	Chasmanuck	0	10	0
Mr. Patrick Dey	Do	1	10	0	Widow Fitzpatrick	Manam	0	10	0
Mrs. William Fitzpatrick	Rushin	1	10	0	Mr. Philip Brennan	Rushall	0	10	0
Mr. Malachy Kelly	Ballytarnan	1	10	0	Mr. Daniel Dewling	Castletown	0	7	6
Mr. George Clements	Castletown	1	0	0	Mr. Peter Mahon	Cadda	0	7	6
Mrs. J. S. Phelan	Do	1	0	0	Mr. Edward Meade	Rushin	0	7	6
High O. H. Phelan, Esq.	Do	1	0	0	Mr. Darby Shelly	Peasfield	0	7	6
John J. Phelan, Esq.	Do	1	0	0	Mr. John Tynan	Loran	0	7	6
Mr. Martin Delany	Do	1	0	0	Mr. Matthew M'Evoy	Rushin	0	6	0
Mr. James Dowling	Do	1	0	0	Mr. James O'Brien	Cadda	0	5	0
Mr. Denis Maher	Do	1	0	0	Mr. James Dowling	Castletown	0	5	0
Mr. Andrew Phelan	Do	1	0	0	Mr. John Dowling	Do	0	5	0
Mr. John Milbourne	Cadda	1	0	0	Mr. Roger Busby	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Joseph Dempsey	Do	1	0	0	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick	Do	0	5	0
Mr. John Phelan	Do	1	0	0	Constable Canham	Do	0	5	0
Mr. John Finlay	Do	1	0	0	Sub-Constable M'Grath	Castletown	0	5	0
Mr. Martin Keegan	Do	1	0	0	James Maher	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Stephen Butler	Old Bonin	1	0	0	Daniel Peters	Camploane	0	5	0
Mr. John Cooke	Crimma	1	0	0	Laurence Peters	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Martin Gorman	Do	1	0	0	Widow Peters	Do	0	5	0
Mr. James Campion	Badger Hill	1	0	0	Widow Tierney	Cadda	0	5	0
Mr. John Campion	Glesbrower	1	0	0	Dennis Gleeson	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Patrick Campion	Do	1	0	0	John Young	Ballycleary	0	5	0
Mr. Patrick Tynan	Ballycleary	1	0	0	William Young	Do	0	5	0
Mr. John Fitzpatrick	Clonan	1	0	0	Patrick Finlay	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Jeremiah Campion	Do	1	0	0	Mrs. Phelan	Farrat	0	5	0
Mr. Laurence Delany	Do	1	0	0	Michael Phelan	Derrydruff	0	5	0
William Long, Esq.	Maxim	1	0	0	Michael Smith	Clonan	0	5	0
John Roberts, Esq.	Do	1	0	0	William Bergin	Do	0	5	0
Alexander C. Stokes, Esq.	Rushall	1	0	0	Peter Perkins	Derryconon	0	5	0
Mr. Milbourne	Coola	1	0	0	Matthew Carroll	Crimma	0	5	0
Mr. Jonathan Pim	Mount Mallick	1	0	0	Michael Breen	Danganree	0	5	0
Mr. Joseph M'Evoy	Rushall	1	0	0	Thomas Dooly	Badger Island	0	5	0
Mr. Thomas Phelan	Do	1	0	0	Edward Reurice	Loran	0	5	0
Mr. John Phelan	Do	1	0	0	James Costin	Chasmanuck	0	5	0
Mr. Edward Roman	Do	1	0	0	John Savage	Do	0	5	0
Mr. John Reurice	Paddock	1	0	0	Michael Savage	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Thomas Herkman	Do	1	0	0	Thomas Lohr	Manam	0	5	0
Mr. John Bennett	Rushin	1	0	0	William Savage	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Thomas Bourke	Do	1	0	0	William Shelly	Peasfield	0	5	0
Mr. Peter Dooly	Badger Island	1	0	0	Thomas Barke	Do	0	5	0
Mr. Timothy Campion	Derryconon	1	0	0	Sub-Constable Connors	Castletown	0	2	6
Widow Holland and Son	Do	1	0	0	Sub-Constable Johnson	Do	0	2	6
Mr. Timothy Cavanagh	Gertnacree	1	0	0	Mrs. Fitzpatrick	Do	0	2	6
Mr. Martin Carroll	Chasmanuck	1	0	0	Denis Delany	Knockcoller	0	2	6
Mr. Martin Carroll, Junr.	Do	1	0	0	Laurence Phelan	Do	0	2	6
Mr. William Delany	Loran	1	0	0	James Redmond	Badger Hill	0	2	6
Mr. John Delany	Do	1	0	0					
Mr. Michael Ryan	Ballytarnan	1	0	0					

This list of names are sent of these poor Protestants

175 10 6

Mr. FOX to Mr. TREVELYAN.

No. 27, *Takenhouse-yard*,
8th of second Month, 1847.

SAMUEL FOX presents his respects to C. E. Trevelyan, and begs to hand him, as requested, the extracts from the letter of the "Friends' Dublin Relief Committee," on which was founded the application for a Government steamer. (See paper A.)

For the information of Government, as to the steps that are likely to be taken in consequence of this application having been promptly acceded to, a copy of the letter addressed to the Committee in Dublin, is also inclosed. (See paper B.)

S. F. takes the liberty of transmitting at the same time, particulars of the mode of making soup, as adopted by his relatives in Somersetshire. The importance of introducing a due proportion of animal ingredient into soup, intended for the sustenance of the starving Irish, is too obvious to require any comment, and no animal food adapted for the purpose, is perhaps so economical as the beef in question; but being salt, a peculiar process is required in the use of it. (See paper C.)

ENCLOSURES.

A.

EXTRACT of a LETTER addressed by the CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY of FRIENDS, DUBLIN, to the COMMITTEE in LONDON.

1st of second Month, 1847.

"We have been very desirous of introducing supplies into that part of the country of other articles of food, not commonly dealt in by the traders there, at least to any great extent, and which are particularly suitable at the present time for various reasons. *Rice*, in the first place, might be made use of in almost any quantity. *Peanuts*, *beans*, or *lentils* are valuable for soup. *Scotch barley*, especially so; but, we fear no great quantity could be obtained, and the price is high. *Ship biscuit* in moderate quantity, say to the extent of 50 or 60 tons, would be highly useful. Now, if you have reason to believe, that a Government steamer could be obtained to convey a cargo of these articles, to be delivered at some eight or ten ports on the coast of Ireland, we should consider it a most desirable object to have such supplies laid down there, and would submit to you the propriety of making purchases to complete the loading. We have about 120 or 150 tons of provisions, consisting chiefly of *peas* and *Indian meal*, with some *biscuit* and *Scotch barley* lying at *Liverpool*; also a large number of *iron boilers*, waiting opportunity of shipment, and should be very glad if it could be arranged for a vessel to call for these stores, and then proceed to the coast of *Dougal*, dropping supplies at the various places to the southward, where facilities for landing and storage might be found. If the Government grant a steamer for this service, they would, doubtless, also give orders for the Revenue cruisers and Coast-guard to assist, with men and boats, at the several landing places, without which great delay and difficulty would be likely to arise for want of wharf accommodation."

B.

London, 27, *Takenhouse-yard*,
6th of second Month, 1847.

DEAR FRIENDS,

On receipt of your letter of 1st, addressed to myself, no time was lost in convening a special meeting of our Committee, with a view of deliberating on its contents.

The subject which chiefly engaged the attention of the Committee, was your proposal to make up a cargo of articles adapted for the making of soup, and to ship them, together with the boilers for the western coast of Ireland. There were not two opinions as to the expediency and pressing importance of this step, and R. Forster and myself were instructed to see the Government authorities on the subject. This we have done this morning.

They enter heartily into the object, and the Admiralty have instructed their agent at *Liverpool*, in the event of a Government steamer not being at liberty, to engage one for the purpose, in which case a Government officer, Lieutenant Keane (I think) will be sent in her, and the Revenue officers on the coast will have instructions to render every assistance in their power. If the vessel be a large one, the cargo will be delivered at the most convenient port, and smaller craft will be employed in distributing it to its various destinations; but, if on the contrary, a steamer drawing but little water can be engaged, she will call at the intermediate landing places, in which case it is Lord Auckland's desire that one of your Committee be on board, in order to appertain and regulate the supplies left at each place of unloading.

Our Committee are disposed to authorize the expenditure on their account of 4000*l.* for this special purpose, and it is scarcely needful to suggest to you, that inasmuch as the boilers and the provisions will accompany each other, the latter consist of ingredients adapted for soup in their due proportions.

I have further to request your writing to G. Crossfield (*Liverpool*) at your earliest possible convenience, with the following particulars:—

1st. The name of the ports or places on the coast, at which you desire supplies may be landed.

2nd. The number of boilers and *proportions* of provisions to be left at each.

3rd. The relative proportions in which the ingredients for making soup, are to be purchased at Liverpool, *inclusive* of those already there.

It will be observed, that in the foregoing, I make use of the word *proportions*, and this simply, because until the capacity of the vessel be ascertained, the aggregate quantities cannot be specified, and when the vessel is engaged, time would not admit of our Liverpool friends corresponding with you on the subject, whereas by knowing the proportionate quantities, they will be in a position to act with promptitude.

I write G. Crossfield by this post, stating how the matter stands, and that he will receive his instructions from your Committee.

I trust I shall not be thought too particular in the foregoing, or in any degree dictatorial, but having been a party to making the arrangement with Government, I feel the responsibility of that arrangement being properly carried out.

I remain, your Friend,

(Signed)

SAMUEL FOX.

Messrs. Joseph Bewley and Jonathan Pim.

C.

MY DEAR UNCLE,

Wellington, 2nd of second Month, 1847.

ACCORDING to thy request I send the receipt for the soup, which is very much liked by our work people, and it is a great help to them at 1d. per quart, at which we sell it. We boil the pulse by steam for about six hours; the American beef is boiled in a digester over a common kitchen fire, and added to the other about an hour before serving out. We find it desirable to have the soup frequently stirred whilst boiling; and after it has been distributed, it is useful that the vessel in which it was made be speedily scrubbed, and then boiled out to prevent its turning sour, which would affect the next boiling.

Proportions of ingredients used for 35 gallons of soup—

	s.	d.
Scotch Barley, 9 lbs. at 2d.	1	6
Peas, 1 peck at 22d.	1	10
Rice, 9 lbs. at 3d.	2	3
Tapioca, 4 lbs. at 3½d.	1	1
Onions, 3 lbs. at 2½d.	0	6½
Beef (American), 8 lbs. at 3½d.	2	2
Oatmeal, 1 lb. at 3d.	0	3
Pepper, 3 ozs. at 1d.	0	3
Sugar, ¼ lb. at 6d.	0	3
	10	1½

being rather more than ¾d. per quart (exclusive of fire and labour).

(Signed)

SYLVANUS FOX, JUN.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROOTH.

February 8, 1847.

WE have now come to a distinct understanding with the London Committee about their provision operations.

They are to have a dépôt at Dublin, of which you are to have the entire care and management, appointing officers on our part to the charge of it, paying all the expenses connected with it, making the deliveries from it upon requisitions from the Committee or their officers, and rendering them accounts of the receipts and deliveries separately from those of the Government dépôts. A copy of the resolutions of the Committee on this subject is sent herewith, and we shall be obliged to you to take all necessary steps for carrying the plan into immediate effect.

The same course is to be adopted at Killibegs and our other dépôts where we have it in our power to assist the Committee by taking charge of their stores, and holding them at the disposal of the Committee and their officers.

In districts on the eastern side of Ireland, where we have no Commissariat establishment, our inspecting officers must give all the assistance in their power by arranging before-hand with the Committees which stand most in need of supplies, so that there may be no delay in the transfer of supplies and the payment for them.

Have you written to Colonel Brough and Captain Stopford on this subject?

Mr. Shiel has applied for the establishment of a Government dépôt at Dungarvon, which is of course out of the question; but would you advise the Committee to send a cargo to that place?

[c. 2.]

O

Mr. E. Conan, of 26, Suffolk-street, Pall Mall, called on me to-day on behalf of the Committee of the Irish Society, to request that that Society might have the same advantage in regard to doubling the subscription raised by them as the British Association, on which subject they had previously communicated with you.

I told them that we were ready to double their subscriptions in those cases in which grants are made out of them, at our suggestion, which is the rule we follow in our transactions with the London Association; and that the simplest and most satisfactory plan would be for them to place the amount raised by them entirely at your disposal, on the understanding that you will gradually expend it in relieving the most urgent and distressing cases which come before you; that every grant so made by you from their fund will be met by an equal amount from the Government funds at your disposal, so as to double their subscriptions, and that you will render them a detailed report of the mode in which you have executed this trust for them and for the public.

Mr. Conan appeared to think that the Society would agree to this proposal, and that a communication would be made accordingly to the Dublin Committee, who have charge of their fund.

The London Association had doubts about making a grant on the application from Donegal, which I return herewith, and I undertook to discuss it with you.

My impression is, that no grant should be made either by the Committee or by Government, without some better security for the proper appropriation of the money than appears on the face of the explanations.

We are particularly anxious that you should arrange so as to give a good proportion of your time to the business of the new Commission; and for this purpose, I would suggest that you should send one of the four officers now ordered to Dublin, or one of those previously sent, to relieve Mr. Adams, and that he should relieve you, as far as possible, from the details of Commissariat business.

I have not replied to those parts of your recent letters which related to seed, because I wished you to work the subject out under the superintendence of the Lord Lieutenant. Our impression is, that it would be advisable to buy up, without delay, all the turnip, carrot, parsnip, beet-root, mangel wurzel, and other green cropseed that can be procured safely and without much raising the market, and to send it to you by railroad and steam-boat, to be disposed of as you, Sir John Burgoyne, Mr. Redington, and the Lord Lieutenant may determine.

The only suggestion I have to make in regard to its disposal is, that you should apply the ready money test as far as possible, and should not relieve the proprietors from their responsibility by avowedly throwing the burthen upon the Relief Committees, or other administrative bodies; but if these latter volunteer their aid, you will, of course, help them. I shall write to you again on this subject to-morrow.

No seed ought, on any account, to be purchased in Ireland, which would merely raise the price, and throw upon us the expense which would otherwise be borne by those whose business it is.

Colonel STOKES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Lassinagh, Tralee, February 6, 1847.

I HAVE been engaged during this season of dire distress as Honorary Secretary to this large Relief District Committee, and as a member of the Committee, and have been also a constant working Poor-law guardian. I have therefore seen a great deal of the working of both systems of relief, and I am acquainted with the state of our district. It has occurred to me that it may not be entirely uninteresting to you to get a sketch of our proceedings and of our position.

The Relief Committee's objects have been to keep up a continuous supply of bread stuffs by importations from Liverpool and Cork, selling the same at prime cost and charges. We have effected this, and without interfering with the FAIR dealer's profits, while we have prevented exorbitant charges. Our store is open only to such as hold tickets signed by me, and such tickets have only been

given to persons of the labouring and equally indigent classes. We have now 1500 such tickets out; which may be taken to represent about 21,000 persons. The state of our funds, and the tedious returns from Liverpool, do not admit of our selling as much to these persons as they require. We only allow at the rate of half-a-pound a-day of Indian meal to each member of a family, old and young. They require one pound each, and we now hope to be able to increase our issues to three-fourths of a pound, our present supply being large. We have sold at 2s. 1d. a stone for yellow meal; we are now selling at 2s. 3d. In the town shops it is up to 2s. 8d. and 2s. 9d. a stone.

We now possess about 180 tons of meal, which has cost us about 3400*l*. Our funds, raised by subscription and Government donation, amount to 1500*l*. The balance a few of us, members of the Committee, have raised from a bank on our personal security. We are now thinking of ordering food from America direct, if we can induce our gentry to come forward to our aid with funds. In the mean time, we must order more food from Liverpool, and draw for a larger credit from the bank on our own responsibility.

From this statement you will see that we are not in a position to give gratuitous relief; our funds would not admit of it. But the ladies of the town of Tralee have established a soup-shop, to which many subscribe. The soup is sold on tickets at half its cost. These tickets are bought by the charitably-disposed and given to the poor, instead of giving them pence. In this way 950 quarts of good meat soup is distributed daily in the town.

The poor-house was built for 1000 paupers. We have lately added additional sleeping galleries, and have upwards of 1200 in the house. It is much overcrowded, and yet numbers of destitute objects are rejected every Board day for want of room. The mortality in the house is considerable, but this arises from the objects who come in, particularly the children, being almost dead for want of food before they come in. Having a Town Fever Hospital, we are as yet able to send our fever patients out of the house.

The poor-house is considerably in debt. A rate is now collecting, the whole of which has been anticipated. We have unpaid checks out to a considerable amount; (I believe about 1700*l*.—I am not certain of the amount.) We have struck a second rate, and before it can be half collected, we must strike a third. The question is, will they be paid? I am one who, with two or three others, have signed a paper, making ourselves responsible to the bank for the interest that may accrue on the credit given to the poor-house. By the by, this seems a great defect in the present Poor-law. Guardians may raise loans from a bank, and make the rate-payers repay the principal; but there is no provision made for charging the interest to them.

We have applied to the Lord Lieutenant for a loan of 3000*l*, to enable us to work on; and we have been obliged also to apply for the authority of the Commissioners to borrow 1400*l*. from the bank, for the purpose of additional buildings—an hospital amongst them; for in our hospital we have had as many as four children in one bed, and these suffering from different diseases of a contagious nature.

I cannot tell you the exact number of labourers now on the Public Works in our relief district. The last week's expenditure was 579*l*. The unfinished works at this rate will give work for about nine weeks. The district is about nine miles long, by about four in width. It extends about eight miles to the west of Tralee, and one to the east; and all this has been absurdly included in the electoral division of Tralee. (Thus the farmers eight miles west of Tralee pay a share of the high rates caused by the town poverty; whereas those two miles east of it do not share in it; the former pay twice as much as the latter do.)

In this large district—and fine, and as regards the quality of the land, particularly rich district—the Poor-law valuation of which is 36,000*l*. a-year, I believe that I am right in saying there is not one resident proprietor drawing 1000*l*. a year from land.

Besides the above measures for relief, private individuals, in their own houses, are many of them giving considerable aid by voluntary and private contribution. I will instance our own case. Mrs. Stokes distributes from her kitchen 150 quarts of meat soup a-week, and 50 or 60 quarts of milk (we live in the country); and all applying for it in the course of the day, get porridge and boiled turnips. Other families, I have no doubt, do their part.

I have entered into these details to prove to you that a great deal is being done to save the people. I lament to be obliged to add, that it has not proved sufficient to prevent deaths from starvation, and that a most fatal description of dysentery is now very prevalent, occasioning many deaths, and brought on by want of clothing, particularly night clothing (many, very many, who had bed-clothes have been obliged to sell or pawn them), of a sufficiency of food, and by not preparing the Indian meal with sufficient care, or cooking it enough, and this often, because they cannot afford enough of fuel. How can this be otherwise? The hire procured at *task-work* in this district is about 11d. (not more) a-day; say they work five days in the week, 4s. 7d. a-week. This for a family of five or six persons. On an average, 1lb. of meal a-day is necessary for these—that is, to give them *full* food—say 3 stone a-week.

1½ stone of this they could purchase at our store for	3s. 4½d.
1½ stone from shopkeepers	4s. 0d.
Cost of a week's supply	7s. 4½d.

You will recollect there is clothing, shoes, house-rent, and fuel yet to be procured. You will ask how, then, do they live at all? 1st, by not eating enough; 2nd, by selling their bed-clothes, and anything they may have had from former years; 3rd, by whatever little aid they may receive by the labour of their wives and younger children, and this is very little.

The Public Works have been much abused, and *are* much abused. Their cost is cried out against, their usefulness animadverted upon, the extravagant expenditure commented upon. The 10d. or 11d. received by a destitute labourer in the Public Works, however, keeps that man and his family from the poor-house, where each member of it would cost the public 2s. 3d. a-week. By any system that the public can adopt, they never can be fed at a less expense than the amount of the hire they now receive. The great bulk of the roads in this barony that have been passed (I know it as a magistrate who was present when they were passed) are useful and productive undertakings, opening mountain tracts and facilitating the transit of sea manure and fuel; most of them roads that, sooner or later, the county would have had made at their sole expense, and *certainly* for not so small a sum as the moiety of their cost which is to fall on the cess-payers and landlords of this country. No man of ordinary observation can be insensible to the evils of the present labour system. But what could have supplied its place, or what *can* do so until the next harvest.

The landlords might have done so, and might do so, if they did the duty of landlords. But many of those amongst them, who have the means, are not stepping out, and will not step out. The position of many of the nominal landlords is a false one—overburdened with debt and yet keeping up the appearance of men of fortune: carriages and footmen, where there should be a parlour-maid and no horse. A nominal rental of thousands, with a real income of hundreds only. Nothing more is to be expected from them in this neighbourhood certainly; they have not the means.

By the debates of last Monday, and more especially the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech, I see it is proposed to substitute for the present labour system of relief "a system of giving rations, either by distribution or sale of "food in the electoral districts of Ireland." This system, it is said, "will "enable the people to cultivate their land." "The smaller occupiers are said "to have been utterly unable to cultivate their ground, because for subsistence "they have had to resort to the Public Works." "Labour is to be set free." The means of subsistence is to be given by "the gratuitous distribution of food," and "thus the labourers will be more able, by small wages obtained from the "farmers, to obtain a supply of food for their maintenance."

Take with you, in the consideration of the matter, the details which I have already given you, and then ask yourself, where are agents to be found to give effect to the system? by what machinery can the ration system be carried out? only, in my opinion, by Government officials on the spot; and what a vast number of these would be required! In such a district as this, say comprising, at least, 36 square miles, you would require six depôts for distribution, to bring the food within convenient reach of the labourer and his family. You will never be able to get the gentry of this country, or of any other where they are not more numerous than they are here, to undertake such responsibility and labour. In

the eight miles of district west of the town of Tralee, where I reside, there are only the rector of the parish, the *sub-sheriff* of the county, and myself, who have taken any interest whatever in the Relief proceedings. There is not one gentleman resident in those eight miles who draws 200*l.* a-year rent from the land of this district (I do not include those who live in Tralee town). Then as to the farmers, there are scarcely any to give money wages to the labourers. I do not believe they could employ one-tenth of them on money wages. Where they could get labourers by paying them out of the rent of the score-ground, or by finding them on potatoes, and very small money wages from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a-day, they gave employment to many, chiefly in the spade work of the potato cultivation, almost all of which was done by the *spade*. The potato cultivation of this season will be comparatively (though a good deal more than many calculate upon will be sown) small, and the corn crops are all done by the plough. It was the potato crop that gave the chief spring employment in former years in this neighbourhood. While not working for the farmer or gentleman, the labourer was at work for himself. This year there cannot be that demand, for the potato seed is not in sufficient quantity to afford it.

There has been a very unnecessary and a very false alarm excited as to the farming operations being neglected in consequence of the employment afforded by the Public Works. In the first place, farming was never carried on, here at least, earlier than the present time, and indeed the time for it has scarcely arrived. Wheat would have been sown by those who sow *early* spring wheat some days since had the weather not prevented it. As yet, no time has been lost. My firm belief is, that all farmers who have seed grain, or who can get it, will sow fully as much as if there were no Public Works, and that in very many cases, the hire and horse work afforded by those works, have enabled small farmers to purchase food, and to preserve seed which they must otherwise have consumed in their families. The same may be said of the labourers; many of them have cherished up a few potatoes for seed, even when almost starving, which they could not possibly have done if they had not got hire from the Public Works. If these works continue until next harvest, the labourers will still cultivate (where they have seed) their little potato gardens, when they come home from the Public Works, aided by their wives and children, and any private person wanting labourers can always get them by giving fair hire. It is a calumny on the labourers to say that they prefer the Public Works to steady *fairly paid* private employ. I gave 10*d.* a-day hire during the autumn, 11*d.* during the first part of winter, and 12*d.* a-day since the 1st instant to my labourers, and I am satisfied I could drain any road in my neighbourhood of all the labourers upon it, any week I liked to offer them work at any of these rates. I am certain that were I to offer a fortnight's work to 50 men from Monday next at 1*s.* a-day, (I believe I could do it at 10*d.*.) I might take all the best men on any Public Work within two miles of my place. But if gentlemen and farmers attempt to perpetuate the vile system of half-pay, 8*d.* a-day, and that badly paid, the labourers will naturally prefer the Public Works at 10*d.* or 11*d.* well paid, though there is a feeling about them, that the regular work of the country is more respectable employment than the road work.

A more patient, honest, self-enduring people do not exist in this world than the labourers of this locality. While numbers of them are only half fed about me—50 or 60 families of labourers close to my gate—I have had 60 sheep on my lawn out at night, all the winter, I had an acre of turnips in the open field, I had a pit of potatoes in an open haggard, a quantity of turf in the open air, and not a sixpenny worth has been stolen from me.

I much dread that if the Public Works be too suddenly stopped, dreadful destitution and disturbances will follow. They should be stopped very gradually, and as a first step to it, the Government inspecting officers of districts might be ordered to see that not more than one member of a family was employed. This he might do without much difficulty, by checking the gangs, by the pay lists, and local stewards. A subsequent step might be to strike off all boys below a certain age who were not proved to be the sons of widows or disabled fathers. A third step might be, at a further interval of time, to divide the gangs, giving each moiety work every alternate week. Thus the works and the numbers might be gradually reduced. But, the public mind should be prepared for all these reductions, by proclamations from the Board of Works, on the part of the Government, of the orders of

Government having been finally issued for the stoppage of the works, on the completion of the works now in operation. If the landlords, by drainage, and the Railroad Companies, by railroads, and the provision depôts, by rations, come in to the aid of those reductions, the distressed multitudes would be brought over the crisis; but, without these latter, what will become of the people, even after the next harvest; for, even should the potatoes to be sown prove good, and I do not despair of their doing so, notwithstanding the sentence passed upon them by the scientific, they cannot be a quarter of the crop of ordinary years, for a quarter won't be sown. I have, myself, and have had all the season, as good potatoes as I ever had. This I attribute to early sowing. I planted in October and November, 1845; and the plants had come to maturity before the blight. I have planted early again this year. There has been a decided difference in the diseases of 1845 and of 1846. In the former year, they rotted in the pits and in houses; in the latter year, all that were stored have continued good. But I fear that, in the case of the seed, which the poor labourers have to sow, there is much danger of failure; for it is the produce of a *late* crop, and none of the late crops had come to maturity when the blight occurred.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, February 7, 1847.

CONSIDERABLE importations of Indian corn, Indian meal, and other supplies, with every westerly wind, are now fast coming up the Shannon to this city. Large supplies are also on their way from the United States and Mediterranean to the Limerick houses. This market will be well stocked, and will, I hope, feed the country for many miles round, including much of the county of Clare, and some portion of Kerry. Cargoes are likewise arriving, and will continue to arrive, at Kilrush, and, to a less extent, at Tralee. I know orders from the Limerick merchants went forth some time since to a very large amount, and we shall have the benefit of them as the spring and summer approaches. Messrs. Russell now turn out from 800 to 1000 tons of different sorts of meal weekly, and the other houses *together* at least 500 more. Prices, I think, are staggering, but no perceptible downward change yet in this market. The Clare Committee, in hopes of a fall, and for reasons stated in a former letter, do not seem inclined to press either the Kilrush or Clare Castle depôts, nor are the dealers inclined they should. I want our *old* stock of sacked meal used. It is time, and to effect this object, I tell my people every where, for a time, and with caution, to loosen the screw. This must not alarm you. There is nothing serious to apprehend either way. I am greatly pleased to see so fair a prospect of large importations by the trade, and I have little doubt the markets here will soon be favourably affected thereby.

I have only just seen, for the first time, Sir George Grey's letter of the 28th ultimo, to the Lord Lieutenant, upon the reconstruction, under Sir John Burgoyne, of the Relief Commission in Dublin. It will, I trust, give Sir Randolph a little respite. He now works hard, mentally and bodily. The programme reads well; it remains to be seen how it will work. I should have little or no apprehension could I assure myself of the practical and cordial aid of all the parties called upon, especially the proprietors of the soil, magistrates, and resident gentry; but I will not croak—indeed, until I came to this country, I never did, but, on the contrary, looked always to the brighter side. Whatever will be the result of these measures, the Government have certainly done *their* best.

We have heavy weather again, causing more or less delay in our operations contrays. The "Sausone" will, I suppose, be turned over to the underwriters, and the cargo sold at Waterford, where it can, as far as it goes, be turned into food. I have several vessels now discharging. They all run up here, not asking for orders either at Kilrush or Tarbert. To the present, however, this neglect has not materially affected my arrangements.

Mr. FORSTER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Wexford, February 8, 1847.

Up to this time I have been only moving about to pick up letters, and to get to my station, my head quarters being at present fixed at Wexford.

About Arklow, where I stopped for 12 hours to make inquiries, they have been very badly off, at one time having had only two days food to depend upon; however, they are doing much better now, having established soup kitchens, and brought over one small cargo of meal from Liverpool to retail to the needy at prime cost. By these means and the Government Works, they manage to keep the people up to about one meal a-day, upon which they do better than one would suppose. Not much is doing in the way of agriculture, although I should judge, from opinions I heard as I passed through the country, that a greater breadth of land is sown with wheat than was the case last year. The rest of the land is in rather a sad condition, but in many places something has been done. A considerable traffic will be carried on about Arklow with the mining and oyster companies as soon as the weather is sufficiently settled. They do not manage matters well enough yet to go on in all weathers; if they did, they might do a good deal more. On Saturday, market-day at Gorey, County Wexford, barley-meal sold at 2s. 2d., and Indian at 2s. 5d. per stone of 14 lbs. The Indian or yellow meal is becoming a great favourite; they find it goes further, and, if well boiled, takes up more water, and, I dare say, when they understand how to cook it better, it will be still more liked. The most vague and opposite opinions prevail as to what is the quantity of bread stuffs available, some hinting at a glut, and others talking about the impossibility of reaching the next harvest. From the little I have seen of them, I think they will do tolerably well with some exertion on their part.

Lieutenant-Colonel DOUGLAS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Clonmel, February 8, 1847.

I HAVE this moment returned home, after a most fatiguing week's work. I hope Sir R. Routh will attend to all my recommendations for aid, which have not been lightly advanced, for I have visited the wretched hovels of the people in the most destitute places, and thence informed myself of their deplorable condition.

I have your extracts to Sir R. Routh, dated 5th instant.

I highly approve of every thing which can in any way tend to mitigate the sufferings of, however few, the poor sufferers; and in regard to the clothing, it has long commanded my best attention, and I have already procured aid in old clothes from Lady Stopford, of Greenwich, for Carrick Beg, county of Waterford; I have applied for same from the same source for Fethard. I have also prepared an application for Killennall. I have entrusted to my hands a considerable amount of money, which has been much added to by many personal friends and relations; and I have been distributing this in a way to encourage, as far as in my poor efforts rests, the employment of females. It is a fearful aspect of things, when the women, heads of families, have *nothing to do*; it must demoralize the whole family. I have spurred up some places to employ the women in knitting most beautiful shooting stockings, and could you help in getting me a market for them in England; we should raise many a drooping spirit. The task seems almost hopeless, but despair in man is doubt of God; and we must fight against this discouraging, this wicked feeling—the feeling which is now destroying the lower orders of Ireland, for they are evincing the apathy, alas! not the energy of despair. I cannot promise to keep up a very minute correspondence about the clothes, but I will, in every way in my power, help in this or any other project for mitigating the sufferings of the poor.

Captain STOPFORD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

New Ross, February 8, 1847.

THE plan of sending clothes over here for the poor is an excellent one, and I think they might be distributed very advantageously if they were given

to the women as a reward for keeping their cabins clean, and to the families of labourers who are employed in farm-work in preference to those on the Public Works. It is very advisable (when possible) to make the people do something for what is given them.

I think, if the clothes were given into the hands of the resident ladies, particularly the clergyman's wives, for distribution, they would be more likely to be properly disposed of than if made over to the Relief Committees. It appears to me, that flannel made up and in pieces, would be the most acceptable. The blue flannel, such as is worn by seamen, would be very useful to men, women, and children; the common Guernsey frocks also would be very acceptable for the old men. I think, a quantity of worsted yarn for knitting stockings being given to the women, would give them useful employment in their cabins. Shoes are to be had very good and cheap in the market-towns.

Mr. TREVELYAN to ———.

February 10, 1847.

If you will send any clothes you may be desirous to appropriate to the relief of the distressed Irish, to Messrs. Erichsen and Co., 110, Fenchurch-street, London, we will take care that they are forwarded at once to the officers who are charged with the inspection of Relief Committees in the most distressed localities, and every expense for conveyance will be paid, both to Fenchurch-street, and after that to the places where the clothes will be actually distributed in Ireland.

Each batch of clothes should be carefully packed and marked "For the Relief of the Distress in Ireland," so that it may not be opened until the officer to whom it is addressed in Ireland receive it; and one invoice or descriptive list should be put into each packet, and another should be sent to the Treasury with a reference to the particular parcel to which it belongs.

Deputy Commissary-General IBBETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Malta, January 28, 1847.

I beg to forward a memorandum of our progress in grain here, since my last Report dated 16th instant. You will perceive that I have shown the progress of the graining since the commencement, to save you the trouble of reference. I am happy to inform you that the Naval steam-mill has been at work for this last week, and in seven days 700 salms of Indian corn have been ground into meal, which is equal to about 140 tons, or 7,000 quarters; but the process of kiln drying the grain, and packing and pressing the meal, cannot keep pace with the grinding, although only one-half the power is in operation. The machinery may require further adjustment and alteration, and it is therefore impossible to say at present what can be done. The drying apparatus appears to answer exceedingly well, and the grain is equally and effectually heated.

I hope, by next mail, to give you a more favourable account of our proceedings.

ENCLOSURE.

MALTA.—MEMORANDUM showing the efforts of GRAIN accepted by the Commissariat, the quantity received and the disposal of the same, since last Report, dated *January 16, 1847.*

						Indian Corn. Sacks.
Remaining due to be received as per last return						16,435½
Offers accepted since, viz. :—						
Number of Offers.	Date, 1847.	Indian Corn. Sacks.	Price per Sack.	From what Country.	Time for Delivery, by the	
28	Jan. 18	1500	s. d. 32 6	Volga	Feb. 28 Mar. 20	1,500
					For one-half of the Cargo . . . } For the other half . . . }	
Received and delivered at Naval steam-mills since last return						17,975½ 2,011½
Remaining due to be delivered						15,963½
Memorandum :—						
Delivered at Naval steam-mills, at sundry times, from commencement up to this day						7,306½
Ground and shipped for Ireland, already reported						634½
Ground into meal, at the rate of 100 sacks per day, out of which quantity,						
about 60 tons are ready packed for shipment						700
						1,334½
Ready for grinding						5,941½
Remaining in expectation from offers already accepted, as above stated . . .						15,963½
Total for grinding						21,905½
						Barley. Sacks.
Delivered at Naval and Commissariat mills, from the commencement . .						2,648
Ground and shipped for Ireland, as already reported						265
which produced 878 sacks of barley meal, at 260 lbs. each, equal						
to 228,840 lbs., and now ready for shipment						798
						1,663
Remaining to be ground						1,395

Commissariat, Malta, *January 28, 1847.*

D. IMBERTSON, *Deputy Commissary-General.*

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 9, 1847.

I ENCLOSE to you my circular this day to the Relief Committees, which, with the steps I am taking here; will meet your views as explained in your letter, and obtain the necessary information in the required points.

I send you a letter from Father Mathew.

ENCLOSURE.

*Commissariat Relief Office,
Castle, Dublin, February 9, 1847.*

COMMISSARY-GENERAL Sir R. I. ROUTH requests that you will have the goodness to transmit to this Office, *if possible by the first post*, a return on the accompanying form, containing the information applicable to the several heads of inquiry therein stated.

I have, &c.,

*To the Secretary of each Relief Committee
in Ireland.*

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

[C. 2.]

P

County of _____ Barony of _____
 Poor Law Union of _____
 Relief District of _____

1. Extent of Relief District, viz. :—

If consisting of Parishes, state the Name of each in the opposite blank; and if the whole of any Parish be not included, state the proportion omitted.

If consisting of whole Electoral Divisions of the Poor Law Union, state only the name of each Division.

2. Names, Rank, or Local Station, Profession, or Business, of the Members of the Committee, commencing with the Ex-Officio Members :—

NAMES.	Rank, or Local Station, Profession, or Business.	Electoral Division in which resident.

3. Relief Fund :—

Present Amount in Money, . . . £

Estimated Value of Food on hands, £

Name and Residence of Treasurer.

4. Soup Kitchens :—

Names of Places at which established.

5. Re-organization of Districts :—

If the District shall now consist of a Parish or Parishes, not coterminous with Poor Law Union Electoral Divisions, state whether the Committee consider it more advisable to reduce or to enlarge the District, in adapting Electoral Division Boundaries; and suggest such arrangements for reducing or enlarging as may appear best for the administration of Relief.

How would the alteration which may be suggested, affect the Relief Fund, that is, in respect to the amount of the claims of any portion of the existing District proposed to be excluded, for which subscriptions have been received; or if an extension be proposed, whether the part to be included has a claim to a portion of the Fund of another, and if so, what other District.

Signed _____

Secretary of _____

Relief Committee.

Dated at _____
 the _____ day of February, 1847.

REV. THEOBALD MATHWY to Sir R. ROUTH.

Cork, February 5, 1847.

For the last six months I have been distributing soup to the destitute, having proved its paramount utility during former periods of partial scarcity. We find beans, peas, and blécut the best ingredients to add to the liquor of flesh-meat. Occasionally, and always on Friday, we use salt fish. If this latter was given twice a-week for dinner to the inmates of the different workhouses, it would be of great advantage to our, I may term them, infatigable fisheries. I am delighted with Lord John's measures; and I shall have no apprehension about the future fate of the Irish people when once they come into operation.

Independent of the beneficial effect the Distillery law will produce, by promoting temperance, I rejoice in it for the sake of humanity, on account of the immense quantity of grain it will save from destruction. This suggests to me the great advantage that would follow from having barley shelled, and not ground. It would be as good as what is called pearl barley, and excellent in soup and hasty puddings. From all that I hear from the United States, &c., &c., I confidently hope that we will have Indian meal for 1d. per pound before April. A few more cargoes of potatoes brought into Cork harbour would bring that esculent down to 1s. the stone of 14 lbs. At present the finest foreign potatoes are to be purchased for 1s. 6d. the stone. We are suffering as much in Cork as in any other part of Ireland. At the lowest calculation, there are 10,000 strangers in Cork craving public charity. Many are relieved, and many, especially the patient, silent victims of famine, are left to perish. In the Cork paper I had the honour to send to you by last evening's post, there is a letter proposing my plan for the relief of these wretched beings. This extreme case would authorise an increased grant to the Soup Committee, with orders to give each day, at a certain hour, substantial food, to be consumed on the premises, to these miserable strangers. Already small sums have been given to the right police to provide a refuge for such homeless creatures as they may discover in the streets, exposed to all the inclemency of the weather. The Union workhouse here has been closed against more paupers. If the guardians would give food to the applicants, confining them during the day, and dismissing them at night, it would alleviate the present calamity.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 8, 1847.

CAPTAIN NOTT has arrived, and goes to Londonderry; Captain Giffard to Donegal; and Captain Wellesley to Sligo. I reserve Down and Antrim for the other officer whom you announce.

I do not know what to say about the clothes, and much as I like the idea of their distribution by Ladies, which I think would be the only safe and really charitable plan, I tremble to undertake it. This is my idea—to have an interview with a Ladies' Society now established in Dublin, to which the British Relief Association gave 100l., and to ask them to establish Committees of Ladies in different parts of Ireland, which would neither incur difficulty nor delay, and to entrust these clothes (which might be consigned to me at Dublin in the first instance) to their care and distribution, for which they would render an account. I think a measure of this kind would be satisfactory to all parties, and the moment I receive your answer, I will act upon it.

I am a little in arrears with the South Sea House, but I shall bring them all up to-morrow.

I have a farther batch of applications for boilers for to-morrow's post.

I think your plan a very good one for the Association, and I will prepare a circular to the department to give effect to it, that the cargoes may be disposed of at once.

I have written to Colonel Brough and Captain Stopford, as you desire, about the cargoes for Wexford and New Ross, and hereafter probably for Arklow.

I think I should ask you to send the "Odin" and the "Birkehead" both to Killybegs. It is so important to establish a depot of some resistance in Donegal.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 8, 1847.

I SEND you enclosed a remark from Mr. Hughes at Skibbereen, in relation to the inconsiderate use of meat in the soup kitchens, and the effect it is producing.

We made a contract for grinding at Longford, and the man went to a great

expense to prepare his mills, and he has never had a grain to grind. Pray send me some Indian whole corn to Dublin, that we may retrieve our character with this miller, who is a zealous hard-working man.

Those good, honest Quakers deserve everything at our hands, and I am rejoiced that Lord Auckland has granted their application, for it will do much good.

The subscriptions continue to pour in, and for large amounts.

Your maps will be put in train.

I have a map with the electoral divisions marked upon it, and I have re-engaged this day a clerk we had last year, to transfer the several counties to silver paper, by which we shall have better means of arranging our present Relief Committees in electoral divisions, which you will understand better when you see the circular, already sent to the printer.

The principle on which we have acted in our sales, has been not to sell when the trade was selling; but the depôts being now open, it would be ungracious to close them. From our constabulary depôts the issues are always small. If large issues are required, the parties must apply to the main depôt.

I have my doubts if we do right to interfere with the purchase of seed. If we stop a blot in one case, we shall uncover many in others. The trade will be alarmed; they will hesitate to engage in it, and we shall do it very imperfectly. The Lord Lieutenant seems anxious to attempt it, but I think there is danger in it. It ought to be well considered before we undertake it. I know that many of the seedsmen will countermand their orders.

Prices are down at Cork: Indian corn 17*l.* 10*s.* in small parcels, and cargoes have been offered (in port) at 17*l.*; Indian corn meal at 18*l.* 10*s.*; oatmeal 25*l.*; wheaten meal 19*l.*

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT of a REPORT from Mr. C. C. HUGHES.

Siddesree, February 5, 1847.

ESTABLISHING soup-houses will, I fear, prove most distressing through the country, as they are now bringing in and slaughtering all the cows, even those forward in calf. The consequence is, there will be neither milk, butter, nor raising stock. Pigs are quite gone here.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

February 10, 1847.

You will receive herewith copies of correspondence with Father Mathew, Admiral Pigot, and Mr. Fox, the Quaker.

The general concurrence of opinion, in favour of introducing a proportion of animal food into the soup, and Mr. Sylvanus Fox's description of the way in which American beef is prepared for that purpose, induce me to recur to the Army beef, which we have at our disposal at Dublin. You can make any use of this store of meat which you and Sir John Burgoyne may consider desirable, and if you think proper to divide it among the Relief Committees in those parts of the country which stand most in need of it, making a free grant of it, you are at liberty to do so, and the official sanction will be given without delay.

The pork has been already transferred for relief purposes to the London Association, and it could not be in better hands.

I also send a copy of an interesting letter which has been addressed to Lord John Russell by a Mr. Graham, to whom a prize has been awarded by the Royal Agricultural Society, as the Author of the best Essay on a History of the Potato Disease, and a specimen of the bread referred to in it, which is partly made of white beet-root, and is, I think, the most successful experiment of this sort I have yet seen. Pray submit it to Mr. Redington and the Lord Lieutenant.

Colonel Jones informs me, that his Board propose to place at the disposal of the Commission, in the first instance, nine of their ablest officers; and full employment will no doubt be found for them, and for any others who may afterwards be transferred. Some of the inspecting districts are at present much too large; and it will be deserving of the consideration of your Commission, whether it would not be advisable to appoint officers to the special duty of acting with the Finance Committees of the Unions. These controlling Com-

mittees will be the heart and core of the whole system, and it seems to be desirable that you should select your best officers for this duty; that they should be able to give themselves up entirely to it, and that not being charged with local duties connected with the Relief Committees, they should be in a position to exercise an independent check over those bodies.

The "Odin" is to leave a large quantity of seed corn at Kenmare for Lord Lansdowne, after which she shall go on to Killarney, unless I hear from you to the contrary, and the "Birkenhead" will go direct to that destination.

You shall have some whole Indian corn for your miller at Longford.

Such purchases of turnip, carrot, parsnip, beetroot, mangel-wurzel, and other seeds of this kind are being made as can be safely effected, and the seeds shall be sent to you as they are obtained, by railroad and steam-boat, via Liverpool.

You will dispose of them as may be arranged in Dublin under the direction of the Lord Lieutenant, either by giving them to the principal seedsmen to sell on commission, which appears to be the safest and best plan, or by such other agency as may be determined.

Seeds of this description may be sent by the mail or even by post, and they cannot be consumed as food. The object to be aimed at, therefore, is to distribute them so that they will fall into hands which will be likely to make good use of them; and no plan that could be adopted for this purpose, would be likely to answer so well as to advertise them widely, and to sell them at a fair market price, which should cover the cost of carriage from London, in order to furnish some protection to the private dealer.

MR. TREVELYAN to Major-General Sir J. F. BURGOYNE, K.C.B., T. N. REDINGTON, Esq., E. T. B. TWISLETON, Esq., Commissary-General Sir R. ROUTH, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. JONES, R.E., Colonel DUNCAN M'GREGOR.

Treasury, February 10, 1847.

I AM COMMANDED by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to transmit to you a copy of a Bill now under the consideration of Parliament, for the temporary relief of the destitute poor in Ireland, and of a letter from Sir G. Grey to the Lord Lieutenant, dated the 28th ultimo, stating the intention of Her Majesty's Government, that you should be appointed Commissioners for carrying into effect the measures intended to be adopted when the above-mentioned Bill shall have become law.

In the execution of these functions, you will be guided by such instructions as you may from time to time receive from the Lord Lieutenant; but it is considered advisable that you should also be placed in possession of the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the general principles by which your proceedings should be regulated, and of the general course of action which you will have to pursue; and that for this purpose this communication should be made to you from the department charged with the responsibility of superintending and checking the expenditure of the large sums devoted to the object of affording relief.

The plan at present in operation for the relief of the distress in Ireland consists of two separate parts.

The first of these is a system of public works carried on under the Act 9 and 10 Viet. c. 107; but although this Act has, to a certain extent, answered its object, and a large portion of the population of Ireland has been preserved from famine by means of the employment afforded under its provisions, the operation of the Act has been attended with serious evils, and it has become indispensably necessary to have recourse to some other remedy.

The causes of this result may be briefly stated as follows:

The Government never relied upon the Act 9 and 10 Viet. c. 107, as the only safeguard against the impending scarcity. It was never contemplated that so large a proportion of the labouring population would have been sent upon the roads and other public works as has proved to be the case, but it was supposed that the pressure of a great public calamity would have led to increased exertions on the part of the upper and middle classes of society, and that employment for the great majority of destitute labourers being provided in this way,

a moderate number only would have been left to be maintained on the Relief Works.

It was also supposed that the applications for admission to the Relief Works would be closely scrutinized by the Relief Committees, and that it would not have been necessary to provide for any but really destitute persons under the Act.

The result, however, has been, that even the usual number of labourers has not been retained in private employment, the Relief Committees have in too many instances neglected the revision of the lists of applicants, and not only has the entire burthen of the prevailing destitution been thrown upon the Relief Works, but the resources which those works might have afforded, have frequently been misapplied, to the benefit of those who did not stand in need of assistance.

Another cause of the partial failure of the Act is the unexpected magnitude of the public calamity. Although upwards of two millions of persons, either directly or indirectly obtain assistance from the Relief Works, there are other multitudes who stand equally in need of relief. The Relief Works do not always furnish a subsistence even for those who are employed on them. The wages allowed have been higher than have been usually given for agricultural labour in Ireland, but at the present prices of food, they are insufficient for the support of a family; and instances of starvation daily occur, notwithstanding the assistance afforded by the works.

The dependence of the people on the Relief Works has also led to this formidable result. A large portion of the soil of Ireland is cultivated by cottier and con-acre tenants, whose subsistence has hitherto been mainly derived from the potatoes grown by themselves. This numerous class has become destitute by the failure of the potato, and they and their families are now supported to a great extent by the Relief Works. If these people are retained on the works, their lands will remain uncultivated. If they were discharged from the works, without some other provision being made for them, they would starve.

The other part of the plan at present in operation consists of a system of direct relief by means of the sale and gratuitous distribution of food. Relief Committees have been formed in most parts of Ireland, acting according to rules prescribed by the Lord Lieutenant. These Committees raise sums by the private subscription of parties locally interested, to which proportional additions are made on the part of the Government; and they likewise administer such funds as may be placed at their disposal from the produce of charitable collections in other quarters. The sums so obtained by them are laid out in the purchase of meal and other kinds of food, which are again retailed at cost price to those who have the means of purchasing, and are given gratuitously to those who have not. More lately the plan of establishing soup-kitchens has been adopted by the Relief Committees, and is now being rapidly extended throughout Ireland, it being found by experience that food given in this shape goes further and is more nourishing and reviving than in any other.

This part of the present plan, which consists in giving relief in a direct form, by means of the distribution of food, has been carried out with much zeal and activity in many parts of the country, and having been found very successful in mitigating the effects of the prevailing calamity, it has been made the foundation of the measures now about to be adopted.

Their Lordships have directed me to furnish this brief review of the measures which have been adopted up to the present time, because they are convinced that the same causes which led to these efforts falling short of the attainment of their object, would, if they continued, equally lead to the failure of any plan that could be devised. It is impossible for the Government, by any machinery that can be provided, to do the whole work; and it is indispensable for the safety of society, that persons of all orders and degrees in it, should energetically co-operate for the purpose of mitigating the common calamity. The State may provide the organization, and, to a certain extent, supply the pecuniary means, but it cannot exercise the superintendence and discrimination which can alone be supplied by those who are connected with the localities by property and residence.

To secure this general co-operation in the measures hereafter to be adopted, will therefore be an object which you will continually have in view, and you will avail yourselves of every suitable opportunity of impressing upon the

public mind, that the present system of relief will inevitably fail, if the whole weight and pressure of the existing calamity is suffered to centre upon it; and that severe and protracted suffering can be avoided, and society can be replaced in a self-supporting, and therefore in a safe and permanent condition, only by the personal exertions on the spot, of the upper and middle classes, to check abuse and increase the productive powers of the country, and by the exercise of patient and persevering industry, and submission to the laws on the part of the great body of the people.

One point of pressing importance is, that every practicable exertion should be made, while there is yet time, to prepare the land for the next crop; and the attainment of this object must mainly depend upon the influence to be exercised over the cultivators of the ground by the resident gentry, the landlords, agents, and other persons interested in the land. Under the system of relief which it will be your duty to administer, the holders of small portions of land will be provided on sale, or, if necessary, by gratuitous distribution, with the food required for their subsistence and that of their families, so that they will not, by the necessity of constantly working on Public Works, be prevented from carrying on the cultivation of their land; but the main duty of stimulating and encouraging the actual cultivators of the soil, from the large farmer to the holder of the smallest portion of land, to exert their utmost energies to obtain the largest possible amount of produce at the next harvest, and of assisting them with advice in regard to the altered modes of cultivation which the failure of the potato crop renders necessary, and with the capital and material of various kinds required for the successful prosecution of their labours, must be performed by the proprietors of the soil, who, possessing the principal beneficiary interest in it, will derive the principal benefit from whatever may be laid out upon it.

Another point on which you will make it your object to secure the co-operation of the upper and middle classes of society, is the proper formation, and subsequent revision from time to time, of the lists of persons entitled to relief. If, in the exercise of this important and responsible function, the members of the Relief Committees yield to intimidation, or fail in the firm and impartial discharge of their duty, the whole country will become pauperised, and there will be a general pressure upon the Relief Act, to the neglect of other independent means of subsistence. All who are concerned in carrying the provisions of the proposed measure into effect, should recollect that the system of Public Works having been found insufficient adequately to meet the evil, and the labour test having been rendered inoperative, owing to the superior attraction of money wages, a system of relief has, of necessity, been established, which has no precise limit except the extent of the admitted destitution. The only real check, therefore, to the unlimited extension, and consequent certain failure of the present plan, is to be found in the honesty and fidelity of purpose with which it will be administered by the members of the Relief Committees, who, from their local knowledge and connections, have the means of properly discharging the trust reposed in them.

I am now commanded to proceed to the practical detail of the duties with which your Commission is charged.

And first, as to the public Officers through whose agency you will more immediately exercise your functions

The Secretary, and other members of the establishment of the Commissariat Relief Office, some of whom were employed under the late Commission, and all have had the advantage of Sir R. Routh's able superintendence, will also, in the main, compose the establishment of your Commission; and if, after the necessary arrangements have been made for carrying on the Commissariat duties, some additional assistance should be required, it will be readily given. Their Lordships have selected Mr. Bromley, of the Admiralty, to be Accountant to the Commission, for which important duty he is well qualified, both by his skill and ability as an accountant, and by the experience he acquired of the accounts connected with the Relief operations in Ireland, during the period he was in charge of them under Sir R. Routh.

The Inspecting Officers who will be employed under your Board will be selected by you from among those who are at present employed under the Commissariat Relief Office and the Board of Works; and their Lordships consider it to be of such paramount importance, that the utmost practicable degree of

efficiency should be given to the new arrangement, that they particularly desire, not only that no person may be appointed to any office under the new Commission who is not fully qualified for it, but also that those officers who are believed to possess in the highest degree the qualifications necessary to ensure success, should be appropriated to this duty from the establishment of the Board of Works, even supposing their removal to be productive of temporary inconvenience to that department.

One of the first objects which will engage your attention, will be the preparation of suitable instructions for the guidance of the Relief Committees to be formed by the Lord Lieutenant, in reference to which I am directed to make the following observations.

The agency of the Committees is to be chiefly directed to the object of providing food for the support of those who have no other means of subsistence.

The Committees must, therefore, form lists of the persons in their respective districts whose circumstances render it necessary for them to be supported in this manner. No persons should be placed on these lists who are possessed, either from property, or from the receipt of wages, of means sufficient to maintain their families, or who have it in their power to obtain work which would enable them to do so; and the Committees should make it their object to encourage the people to have recourse to any available means of earning their livelihood by honest labour, rather than to be dependent on gratuitous relief from the public soup-kitchen.

Care should be taken in selecting the places at which the soup-kitchens are to be established, to make them as central as possible, with reference to the wants of the destitute persons who will have to be supplied from them; and every necessary precaution should be taken by the Relief Committees, under the superintendence of the Union Finance Committees, to secure a sufficient stock of wholesome food.

One of the functions hitherto exercised by Relief Committees has been, to lay in stores of meal, which they have retailed at cost price to those who require it. This was rendered necessary by the remarkable absence, in some parts of Ireland, of the agency by which, in other countries, food is collected, stored, and re-distributed through the corn-factor, miller, baker, and small shop-keeper, from whom, elsewhere, the labourer habitually purchases his weekly or daily supply of food.

It may be necessary for the Relief Committees, as they will be reconstituted under the Act, to continue, in some cases, to give assistance of this kind for a time; but as the ordinary business of society cannot be permanently carried on by the artificial machinery of Relief Committees, it is desirable that the utmost practicable encouragement should be given to private persons to establish themselves in those trades by which the means of subsistence are brought within the reach of the people. With this view, it is indispensable that in those cases in which the Relief Committees may continue for a time to provide meal for sale, the rule that no sale should be made at less than cost price, including carriage and other necessary charges, should be strictly enforced; and it might assist the transition to a sounder and more permanent state of things, if the operations of the Relief Committees were conducted, as far as possible, in a wholesale manner, leaving the actual distribution of the meal among the people to be effected by retail dealers.

In cases in which sufficient supplies of food are not to be obtained by purchase from private dealers, cooked food may be sold, even at a reduced price if necessary.

Of all the important duties which you will have to perform, the most critical and important is that which relates to providing the funds by means of which the system of relief is to be supported.

To this part of the subject, therefore, your attention should be carefully directed; and you will keep this Board regularly informed of the difficulties which arise, of the manner in which you propose to meet them, and of any serious grounds of apprehension you may entertain for the future.

It is intended that these funds should be provided, partly from the poor's rate to be levied in the Unions or Electoral Divisions, partly from subscriptions, and partly from donations from the Government. It may not in all cases be necessary to have recourse to a rate, if private subscriptions and Government donations alone, without any assistance from a rate, according to the plan at

present in operation, afford sufficient means of supplying relief. It is hoped that in many Electoral Divisions, this may, with proper exertion and liberality, be perfectly practicable. Rating will be necessary in cases where (owing to absence or neglect) the efforts are not adequate to what the occasion requires; but voluntary exertions to raise funds are far the best, and should receive every possible encouragement.

In those cases in which it is necessary to have recourse to the assistance of a rate, the Inspecting Officer of the district must be instructed to impress upon the Guardians of the Unions, that the rate should be enforced without delay, and the proceeds should be brought into use as they are realized, the necessary expenditure being, in the meantime, defrayed by means of subscriptions and donations, according to the existing plan. Throughout these operations it has been found that the best security against abuse has been the necessity of some present payment, and the funds which have been the most judiciously expended have been those, a portion of which has been raised by the parties expending them.

The levying of a rate, however, is frequently attended with some delay; and, in order to prevent the ill consequences which might arise from the want of available funds, you are authorized to make advances from the funds which will be placed at your disposal for this purpose.

You will make a special Report to this Board on every occasion on which you find it necessary to recommend a loan in anticipation of a rate, in which Report you will explain the circumstances on which your recommendation is founded.

With respect to the proportion which the donations are to bear to the other sources whence funds are to be derived for these relief purposes, regard must always be had to the circumstances of the district, and its ability to contribute for the maintenance of destitution within its limits.

In the case of great destitution, donations equal in amount to the sum subscribed have been authorized; and in like manner you may grant sums equal to those raised by subscription or levied by rate. In cases of extreme urgency you will not be confined to this proportion, but will be at liberty to give contributions in reference to the pressing claims of want and destitution; and, on the other hand, you will limit the Government donations to a less sum than what is equal to the contributions from other sources, where the necessity is not of so pressing a description.

The preparation of the instructions to the Inspecting Officers will also occupy your early attention, the main object being to explain to the Inspecting Officers in what manner they are to see that all the other rules and instructions under which the system is to be carried on, are properly attended to by the parties whose duty it is to carry them into effect.

In framing the instructions to the Inspecting Officers and Relief Committees, you will have due regard to the instructions under which the present Relief Committees and Inspecting Officers are acting; and you will embody in the revised instructions such portions of those now about to be superseded as may appear to you to be proper to be preserved.

The Board of Works will be instructed to bring the Relief Works under the Act 9 and 10 Vict. c. 107, to a conclusion, as soon as the state of the works and other circumstances of each locality may admit. You will be in constant communication with that Board through its Chairman, Colonel Jones, who is a member of your Commission; and you will inform them, from time to time, in what electoral divisions your measures are sufficiently advanced to allow of the Relief Works being safely discontinued.

You will transmit to this Board, at the earliest practicable date after the termination of each month, a full Report of your proceedings in the execution of the Act during the previous month, and these Reports will be regularly laid before Parliament.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

February 11, 1847.

WE have already secured the quantities of seed stated *overleaf*, and shall continue our purchases in the London market, according to the circumstances of the case.

The seed which is to be had in largest quantity is turnip seed, of different kinds, of which we have already purchased enough to sow 4,657 acres; and I

[c. 2.]

Q

shall be glad to know your opinion as to the further quantity it would be desirable to buy, and of what particular kinds.

Next to this mangel-wurzel seed is easiest to be procured, and you must in like manner give me your opinion how far this is likely to be in demand in Ireland.

Parsnip seed is not to be had, having been all bought up by private persons for Irish use.

For the same reason carrot seed is to be had only in small quantities.

Beetroot seed is never abundant, this vegetable being only grown in gardens.

Cabbage seed may be had of various kinds; but I am informed that the Drumhead cabbage is the only one which comes to perfection the first year.

As peas and beans are used both as food and seed, they are of course to be had in large quantities, and we shall take pains to procure moderate quantities of the best descriptions of each.

Would it be advisable to procure onion seed?

An order will be immediately sent to France to purchase a considerable quantity of white beetroot seed. It is cultivated to a great extent in the north-eastern part of France for the manufacture of sugar; and there appears to be a wide-spread opinion that it might with advantage be introduced into Ireland as a vegetable, or even as an aid in the manufacture of bread.

We are not aware of any other kind of seed that could, with any benefit, be obtained from France.

From Belgium we hope to procure a considerable quantity of white carrot seed.

The ports of Holland are at present closed, but that country is, I believe, famous only for its grass seeds.

The prices at which we have obtained our present supply of seed are, in almost every instance, a good deal lower than the retail prices at which Mr. Joseph Higgins and Sons advertised to sell the same articles on the 1st January last, and this circumstance will make it easier for us to dispose of them in a manner which, while it will benefit the public, will not injure the seed merchants.

The simplest and best plan will, as before stated, be to hand over our stock of seed to the seed merchants at prime cost, on the understanding that they will advertise widely and sell at a reasonable advance, sufficient to cover the expense of carriage, weighing out, repacking, &c., and, if necessary, they might establish depôts for this purpose in the interior.

ENCLOSURE.

VARIOUS Lots of SEED bought on the 10th of February.

62 acres	5 cwt.	Altringham carrot	at 9d. per cwt.	10 lb. per acre.
500 "	50 bushels	Purple-top Swede turnip	" 28s. per bushel,	5 lb per acre.
300 "	30 "	Matson's "	" 26s. "	5 "
300 "	30 "	Skirving's "	" 32s. "	5 "
200 "	20 "	Lanig's "	" 32s. "	5 "
200 "	20 "	Early white stone "	" 22s. "	5 "
800 "	80 "	White round "	" 20s. "	5 "
600 "	60 "	Green "	" 21s. "	5 "
600 "	60 "	White globe "	" 20s. "	5 "
600 "	60 "	Red round "	" 24s. "	5 "
About 192 "	12 cwt.	Long red mangel wurzel	" 75s. "	6 to 7 per cwt.
" 192 "	12 "	Yellow globe "	" 80s. "	" "
" 32 "	2 "	Long yellow "	" 112s. "	" "
" 32 "	2 "	Red globe "	" 112s. "	" "
" 20 "	1 "	Red beetroot "	" 2s. 6d. per lb.	" "
" 26 "	1 "	Drumhead cabbage .	" 9s. per cwt.	4 to 5 "

4,657

To be forwarded to Dublin the 17th or 18th instant, via Liverpool by rail.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 9, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Weekly Return of the Commissariat Depôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations and of the sums subscribed up to the 6th instant.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS, &c., in the several DIVISIONS in IRELAND, showing the Issues during that period, and the Remains on Saturday, the 6th of February, 1847.

Dypt.	In Quarters of Eight Bushels each.				Certs. of Salt.		In Sacks of Eight Bushels each.						Bags of Sixteen of 115 lbs. each.		Remarks.
	Indian Corn.		Pease.		Issues.	Remains.	Wheaten Meal.		Barley Meal.		Oatmeal.		Issues.	Remains.	
	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.			Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.					
Limerick	..	1,043	..	26	..	10,199	..	..	..	..	..	38	87	135 cisterns of pease.	
Kilrush	..	..	..	..	..	1,278	..	..	..	..	..	64	..		
Madagascar	..	..	..	..	..	639	..	..	..	..	..	220	..		
Shillbreen	..	..	..	..	..	854	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,234		
Dingle	..	..	..	..	..	1,235	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	133	
Cahirreagh	..	..	..	..	..	132	258	..	..	..	..	..	100	628	
Carleton	..	..	..	..	..	124	250	..	..	..	..	..	..	246	
Kerris	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Carra Castle	..	..	..	..	..	1,080	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Galway	..	6,650	..	..	..	640	4,443	..	..	..	..	9	..	1186 qrs. of Indian corn. In transit { 529 sacks of Indian meal. " " 85 qrs. of Indian corn. On 30th January.	
Wentport	22	1,938	..	..	..	915	..	..	..	..	..	24	..		
Callis	..	..	14	877	..	1,252	4	256	..	153	..	..	..		
Belmullet	..	..	..	218	..	1,310	..	155	..	..	..	..	..		
Dugort	..	140	..	..	51	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sligo	..	2,304	..	..	..	..	1,241	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ballina	..	..	..	..	..	120	929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Killybegs	..	1,160	..	..	..	228	2,183	64	84	..	..	..	..	..	
Brimport	..	314	..	..	..	112	821	..	240	..	..	..	60	..	
Dunlough	..	320	..	..	..	180	654	54	60	..	..	..	..	..	
Boring	..	94	..	..	..	..	88	..	368	..	..	..	..	..	
Dublin	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,457	..	..	..	7,461	45	..	..	
Benaghier	..	..	..	..	..	..	137	..	147	..	1,457	965	..	..	
Lampford	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	..	..	..	1,704	306	..	..	
Castles	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	64	48	206	..	
Roscommon	..	..	..	..	..	..	82	..	..	..	80	48	350	..	
Sligo	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	96	24	240	..	
Small feeding depoh	..	..	..	..	..	..	416	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
In transit	..	217	..	..	..	..	2,389	..	343	..	..	540	..	..	
Totals	214	16,907	14	5854	..	51	34,173	152	1,703	..	12,837	200	8,975	..	

RECAPITULATION OF REMAINS on the 6th of February, 1847.

14,867 quarters of Indian corn at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	2,973½ tons.
5964 quarters of peas at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	119½ "
34,173 sacks of Indian corn meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	4,271½ "
1,793 sacks of wheaten meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	224½ "
12,837 sacks of barley meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	1,604½ "
1,348 sacks of oatmeal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	168½ "
3,975 bags of biscuit at 20 sacks per ton are equal to	198½ "

Remains 9,562½ tons.

ISSUES during the Week—

214 quarters of Indian corn	43½ tons.
1½ quarters peas	¾ "
2,186 sacks of Indian corn meal	270½ "
152 sacks of wheaten meal	19 "
209 bags of biscuit	10 "

Issued 343½ tons.

The Castle, Dublin, February 9, 1847.

R. J. ROUTE, Commissary-General.

DONATIONS authorised to be issued under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant in aid of Subscriptions raised by Relief Committees in Ireland, to Saturday, 6th February, 1847.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donation.	Subscriptions.
1847		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Jan. 30	Cashel district, county Tipperary	155 0 0	155 0 0
"	Ennis district, county Mayo	150 0 0	100 4 2
"	Loughpatrick district, county Tyrone	140 0 0	141 19 11
"	Tallon district, county Waterford	59 0 0	59 0 0
"	Ballyvaughan district, county Tipperary	90 0 0	77 13 5
"	Brunce district, county Limerick	50 0 0	39 5 3
"	Bantry district, county Cork	170 0 0	118 18 1
"	Richan district, King's County	180 0 0	165 5 4
Feb. 1	Loughgall district, county Armagh	150 0 0	150 0 0
"	Gallow district, county Meath	101 0 0	101 0 0
"	Duleek district, county Meath	124 0 0	124 0 0
"	Ashtown district, county Limerick	320 0 0	320 11 0
"	Portadown district, county Armagh	291 0 0	291 6 0
"	Parkhall district, county Armagh	51 0 0	51 0 0
"	Goosbridge district, county Kilkenny	271 0 0	271 2 6
"	Tallin district, county Clare	224 0 0	224 19 0
"	Tallin district, county Waterford	45 0 0	49 2 0
"	Tallin district, county Waterford	100 0 0	100 16 0
"	Tallin district, county Waterford	390 0 0	320 1 6
"	Basky district, county Sligo	80 0 0	85 15 6
"	Caledon district, county Tyrone	246 0 0	244 6 0
"	Newton Stewart district, county Tyrone	200 0 0	239 11 7½
"	Dundasagh district, county Donegal	40 0 0	37 5 0
"	Kanterk district, county Cork	62 0 0	62 18 6
Feb. 2	Slieve district, county Sligo	40 0 0	23 10 0
"	Clonsilla, &c. district, county Kilkenny	67 0 0	67 16 8
"	Ferbane district, King's County	40 0 0	36 3 6
"	Old Leighlin district, county Carlow	20 0 0	20 0 0
"	Naven district, county Meath	509 0 0	500 15 6
"	Dunsmannagh district, county Tyrone	32 0 0	32 0 0
"	Rich Hill district, county Armagh	36 0 0	30 0 0
"	Riverstown district, county Louth	145 0 0	148 0 0
"	Glennare district, county Kilkenny	43 0 0	43 13 0
"	Aughasay, &c. district, county Monaghan	35 0 0	35 13 4
"	Moyle district, county Kerry	540 0 0	537 0 0
"	Moynan district, county Down	250 0 0	301 16 6
"	Keshmunnagh, &c. district, county Wexford	174 0 0	174 7 6
"	Mullingar district, county Westmeath	690 0 0	609 1 0
"	Adare district, county Limerick	137 0 0	137 7 6
"	Toomevara district, county Tipperary	36 0 0	36 10 0
"	Youghal district, county Cork	494 0 0	494 3 4
"	Gleem district, county Cork	100 0 0	62 0 0
"	Kelamannal district, county Limerick	80 0 0	76 0 0
"	Newmarket district, county Cork	87 0 0	87 10 0
"	Kilcennack district, county Longford	80 0 0	80 11 6

Donations, &c.—continued.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donation.			Subscription.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1847							
Feb. 2 .	Corras district, Sligo	120	0	0	72	0	0
"	Ahacragh district, Galway	120	0	0	168	10	0
Feb. 3 .	Slane district, Meath	120	0	0	120	0	0
"	Pennycuik district, Tyrone	123	0	0	123	15	6
"	Clonmacnoise district, Armagh	10	0	0	10	0	0
"	Dromoleague district, Cork	150	0	0	53	10	0
"	Glogher district, Tipperary	235	0	0	235	0	0
"	Ferna district, Westford	218	0	0	218	12	0
"	Ovens district, Cork	146	0	0	146	1	2½
"	Classakitty district, Cork	150	0	0	96	2	1
"	Cresmolina district, Mayo	60	0	0	56	0	0
"	Cresmolina district, Mayo	189	0	0	119	0	0
"	Cresmolina district, Mayo	60	0	0	43	0	0
Feb. 4 .	Mossymore district, Londonderry	95	0	0	95	14	6
"	Glongriffin district, Cork	130	0	0	111	12	6
"	Glongriffin district, Cork	210	0	0	190	0	0
"	Brick district, Limerick	300	0	0	249	13	0
"	Shibberden and Castle-town districts, Cork	200	0	0	184	9	0
"	Donegal district, Donegal	150	0	0	98	10	0
"	Templemore district, Donegal	100	0	0	60	0	0
"	Templemore district, Donegal	100	0	0	65	0	0
"	Ballintober district, Roscommon	180	0	0	95	10	0
"	Galway district, Galway	363	0	0	336	2	8
Feb. 5 .	Kilrush district, Wexford	153	0	0	153	2	0
"	Irishman district, Queen's County	178	0	0	178	2	6
"	Tallaght district, Dublin	199	0	0	199	2	0
"	Ferry district, Monaghan	203	0	0	203	0	0
"	Blossington district, Wicklow	85	0	0	85	0	0
"	Kilmore district, Armagh	156	0	0	156	8	6
"	Dunleavin district, Wicklow	36	0	0	36	12	6
"	Dunleavin district, Wicklow	90	0	0	90	10	0
"	Dunleavin district, Wicklow	95	0	0	95	10	0
"	Dunleavin district, Wicklow	50	0	0	71	10	0
"	Ballymacree district, Westmeath	173	0	0	173	10	0
"	Ferbane district, King's County	80	0	0	80	0	0
"	Ferbane district, King's County	162	0	0	162	2	6
"	Scrubby district, Carrow	50	0	0	40	0	0
"	Sharonan district, King's County	210	0	0	210	1	6
"	Moy district, Tyrone	347	0	0	347	10	0
"	Kilbride, &c., district, Cork	200	0	0	200	0	1
"	Templemore district, Cork	48	0	0	48	0	0
"	Cove district, Cork	150	0	0	150	17	1
"	Choyne district, Cork	177	0	0	177	18	6
"	Inchegoleigh district, Cork	30	0	0	21	12	0
"	Glascoo district, Kerry	220	0	0	189	13	4
"	Glanbeigh district, Kerry	189	0	0	178	19	0
"	Kilmore and Kelsary districts, Clare	140	0	0	128	12	0
"	Cloughjordan district, Tipperary	50	0	0	50	5	0
"	Kilmore district, Tipperary	85	0	0	85	0	0
"	Lismore district, Waterford	50	0	0	58	18	1
"	Lismore district, Waterford	200	0	0	259	11	0
"	Dinloe district, Londonderry	50	0	0	50	0	0
"	Greedore district, Donegal	30	0	0	25	0	0
"	Trillick district, Tyrone	10	0	0	10	0	0
"	Westport district, Mayo	721	0	0	721	14	7
"	Toshanny district, Longford	148	0	0	143	17	0
"	Oren Cloughmore district, Roscommon	100	0	0	87	0	0
"	Ballymore district, Galway	65	0	0	57	0	0
Authorized during the week		15,382	0	0	15,009	7	7
Previously authorized		34,679	16	0	43,524	8	9
Total to 6th February		50,061	16	0	58,533	16	4

R. J. ROUTH, Commissary-General.

Captain STOPFORD to Mr. TRIVELIAN.

Killenay, January 24, 1847.

I SENT to Sir Randolph Routh, on Saturday last, a report of the state of Clogh, which place I visited on Thursday. The scenes of misery and utter destitution I witnessed, I shall never forget, and if something is not done for the people before long, it will be a second Skibbereen. And the misfortune is, there is nobody in, or near the place to assist them. The landlord (Colonel O'Brien) lives entirely abroad. I understand he is a very wealthy man, but he does nothing for the people. Mr. Woudesford is the nearest resident proprietor, and he lately sent 10*l*. worth of bread to them; he already supports at his own expense all the poor on the colliery at Castlecomer, besides mainly contributing to supplying soup to the poor in the town.

In Clogh district there is a population of about 8000 persons, about 600 are on the Public Works, and there are about 1800 destitute. The swarms of very young children astonished me. I should think five out of six were born since the last census was taken. Dysentery is very prevalent, but I think the sulphuric nature of the coal they burn keeps away fevers. Many men, women, and children, I saw lying on their straw beds unable to move, and many of the women cannot go to look for work, having pledged their clothes for food. I looked into some of their iron kettles that were on the fire, and found only water, and they declared to me it was seldom any thing else was in the kettles. I gave some of the poorest some money, and it was difficult to say whether they felt the greatest surprise at having any thing given them, or gratitude when they found themselves unexpectedly supplied with the means of buying food. What can be done for these poor people? It seems to me to be a case for the direct agency of Government. A subscription in the place I think is out of the question.

Numbers are going to emigrate to America from Castlecomer, and many would go from Clogh if they were assisted.

Notwithstanding all that is said about the Irish landlords doing their duty, I am convinced that 15 out of 20 do not; they talk of the large assessments to which they subject themselves for the support of the poor by presenting very freely for works at the Presentment Sessions, but the majority do so, being perfectly convinced the money will never be called for. But how different is their conduct when asked to subscribe to the relief funds. They then give 1*l*. where they ought to give 20*l*. As to the absentees, 15 out of 20 give nothing, and when applied to, either give an evasive answer, or none at all.

I am happy to say, wheat fell yesterday 5*s*. per barrel of 20 stone. If it falls much, the difficulty will be to make the people economise it.

The presence of the absentees on their properties, and their attendance at the Relief Committees would be more advantageous than any subscription they could make; whenever the country gentlemen do attend, the Committees are generally well conducted, but when left to the management of others there is plenty of most difficult and disagreeable work for the inspectors, and impediments they throw in the way to hinder one's arriving at the truth are inconceivable.

Captain ANDERSON to Lieut.-Col. JONES.

Sheanna, February 9, 1847.

I LEFT Rathdrum early this morning with a view of proceeding to Moyne, to meet its Relief Committee, according to appointment. But from the very great quantity of snow that has fallen, I reached this place with great difficulty, and had literally to dig the horse out of some places; wherever the snow had drifted, it was some feet deep; in fact, many of the roads of this mountainous district are almost impassable. I regret to inform you that I was informed by the secretary of the Relief Committee of this place, that they have only 6 cwt. of meal left, and though some more has been ordered. I fear no carts will reach this place as long as the storm lasts. What the consequence will be God only knows. I heard of one family that were *lying in bed*, as they had neither food nor fuel. I believe that these and many others similarly situated would perish, were it not for private benevolence, and in this mountainous wild

district, it is to be feared many may perish unheard of. I know you have done all that man could do, but I feel I should be wrong were I not to put you in possession of these sad facts. I write from this place in case the state of the roads prevent my getting to my head-quarters in time for post. I am to meet the Ashford and Bray Relief Committees to-morrow, and will, if I can, go up in the evening to Dublin, in case you might wish me to go and wait on Sir R. Routh.

Deputy Commissary-General DOMREE to Sir R. ROUTH.

Sligo, February 9, 1847.

DEPUTY Assistant Commissary-General M'Culloch informs me under date of the 6th instant, that the soup-shop at Dunfanaghy had opened with great "éclat" on that day—a similar establishment is opened at Cross Roads and Gweedore—in progress also, I trust, for Arranmore and Kilear—and in operation at Killbegs; but at this latter place with very small and inadequate means, owing to a separation on the part of the parish priest with his flock, and to the parish belonging to a ward in the British Chancery, whose estate does not contribute.

The CONTROLLER for VICTUALLING and TRANSPORT SERVICES to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Admiralty, February 10, 1847.

IN obedience to their Lordships' order of the 28th ultimo, The Comptroller of Victualling begs to forward an Abstract of the quantity of unsewiceable and condemned slop clothing, &c., in store at the Victualling Yards at Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth.

ENCLOSURE.

An Abstract of the Quantity of Unsewiceable and Condemned Slop Clothing, &c., in Store at the Victualling Yards at Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth.

Articles.	Deptford.	Portsmouth.	Plymouth.
Blue cloth jackets, No. 2 . . .	17 No.	4 No.	. . .
Ditto for ditto No. 1 . . .	54 yards.	. . .	. . .
Ditto for ditto No. 3 . . .	81 "	. . .	. . .
Ditto for trousers, No. 2 . . .	13 "	. . .	. . .
Ditto for ditto No. 3 . . .	14 "	. . .	. . .
Duck	1,918 1/2 "	209 yards.	. . .
Flannel	259 "	. . .	. . .
Blue worsted jackets	174 No.	9 No.	. . .
Worsted stockings	7 pairs.	. . .	. . .
Dress caps	80 No.	. . .	. . .
Blue waist	350 1/2 yards.	. . .	. . .
Ditto serge	89 "	. . .	4 yards.
Blankets	28 No.	. . .	6 No.
Shirts	218 "	. . .	. . .
Black silk handkerchiefs	328 "	48 No.	. . .
Shoes, old pattern	272 pairs.	. . .	. . .
Flannel trousers	15 "	. . .	. . .
Ditto for ditto	91 1/2 yards.	. . .	. . .
Ditto for jackets	275 1/2 "	. . .	. . .
Mannes' great coats	. . .	. . .	10 No.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 12, 1847.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty, and request that he will move the Lords Commissioners to forward this clothing and any other of the same kind which may become available in the next three months, to Sir R. Routh, to be disposed of by him under the orders of the Lord Lieutenant, for the relief of the distress in Ireland.

Transmit a copy of this letter and enclosure to Sir R. Routh, and state that

the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been requested to forward the clothing to him, and desire that he will appropriate it according to such directions as he may receive from the Lord Lieutenant, for the relief of destitute persons in Ireland, either in the Union workhouses, or, independently of those establishments, in the most distressed localities.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 10, 1847.

SIR JOHN BURGONNE is arrived, and I shall send for Mr. Adams to return to Dublin as soon as he has completed his present tour.

We shall have something more to do for the troops than was expected, and both Mr. Bishop at Cork, and Mr. Millikin, will be required. It is not quite certain how we may succeed in our contracts, from the difficulty of procuring means in certain districts, and we shall require their assistance to construct the new machinery throughout the country, and see that it works.

I enclose to you a letter from Mr. Bishop, at Behanillet, who is mistaking the intention of the peas, which the people do not know how to use. I have put him right about it, but my object in sending the letter, is to ask a further supply for that port, the vessel sent by Mr. Erichsen having been wrecked. The better thing to send would be barley meal and Indian corn meal.

I think you had much better buy the seed in London, in lieu of making any purchases here, which would never do, for all the obvious reasons you state.

We have no store-room at Killibegs for the Relief Association. What we have is insufficient for our wants, and none to be hired. There is plenty of room to be had at Ballina, and we can increase our room at Sligo.

As regards Dublin, the warehouses are under the management of Mr. Schovell, who hires them, and he takes charge of the goods by means of his own people, who act as labourers and perform all the duties while the goods are in store, for which he charges so much per 100 packages, according to their description. This charge, which we pay for our goods, would, I presume, be paid by the Association,—it is reasonable—but the shipping duties on receiving and despatching we arrange, and we have contracts on the Royal Canal and Grand Canal, but the freight is scarce and sought after, and we cannot always secure it as we require. There is a want of competition of forwarders on these two canals, and not half the business done that might and ought to be.

I am inclined to think that Dungarvan would be a good selection. We had a store last year there, and it was very useful, and the issues large, and the people clamorous for it. How much more so on the present occasion.

The "Acheron" was stationed at Galway, and was ordered away by the Admiral as a guard to the Belmullet and Blackod Bay, where the late plunder on a merchant ship was committed. A coast guard vessel has been ordered there, and the "Acheron" will no doubt immediately return. In the meanwhile, the Clifden Relief Committee are supplied from the magazines at Clifden. This Committee are constantly asking for very small quantities to be conveyed to them from private dealers at Galway, and they would keep the "Acheron" exclusively employed on their service, having no plan, and asking for a ship that takes sixty or eighty tons, to be running backwards and forwards at a great cost of fuel with five tons, and never exceeding twenty. We must, therefore, combine these matters, and in the meantime, they can be supplied and are supplied by Mr. Parker. I will write you again about it to-morrow. I never declined giving them transport, but I told them that we did not hold ourselves responsible for providing it; it was an advantage subject to contingencies.

Mr. Erichsen must bear in mind to keep up the supply at Clifden and Belmullet, on which I will send a regular requisition to-morrow.

ENCLOSURE.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Sir R. ROUTH.

Behanillet, February 5, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 14, of the 2nd instant, covering the warrant of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, for the sum of 150*l.*, to be placed at the disposal of the ERIS Relief Committee.

In consequence of there being no private supplies of any description in this district, the people have no other means of obtaining food than from the Government store, and all the exertions in my power render it unavailable to restrict the issues, which are becoming great.

I have made various attempts to force the peas upon the people, but have not hitherto succeeded, as they constantly assert that they do not understand them.

They are not the description of pea for making good soup, and in order to turn them to other uses, I have had a sack ground, and find that they make excellent meal.

As it would be impossible for me to grind sufficient with the mill I have in store, I shall endeavour to impress upon them by degrees to grind them with their own querns.

There is, however, great opposition shown.

I regret to observe that the state of this part of the country is getting worse and worse every day. The little money the people had is fast passing from their hands, and the low wages they obtain, will not, in a short time, enable them to purchase food at the present prices, and scenes of death from starvation will, I fear, be but too common.

There are no importations; consequently they can look only to the Government store, and should that at any time fail, the results would be fearful.

Under these circumstances, I trust you may be pleased to direct further supplies of Indian meal or wheat meal to be on their way to Belmullet.

The revenue cruiser "Squirrel," is daily expected at Blacksod Bay as a naval protection to the merchant shipping.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 12, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, the copy of a letter from the Admiral Superintendent at Malta, dated the 28th ultimo, relative to the quantity of meal ready at that place for shipment to Ireland.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir LUCAS CURTIS to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Malta Dock-yard, January 28, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that there is ready for shipment the undermentioned quantities of meal, and that it will be embarked immediately the "Birkenhead" arrives.

Barley Meal.

Naval bakery mills	.	.	.	.	790 sacks
Commissariat ditto	.	.	.	.	200 "
Total	.	.	.	.	990 "
Equal to	.	.	.	.	112 tons
252,000 lbs.					

Indian Corn Meal.

	lbs.	Pcks.	Hbds.	Srs.	Tons.
Ready, 27th January	.	.	81,929 in 49	113	44
Packing, 28th "	.	.	35,000 in "	12	19
Total	.	.	116,929 in 49	125	63
Barley meal in sacks	.	.	.	112 tons	
Indian corn meal in sacks	.	.	.	63 "	
Total	.	.	.	175 "	

The "Tiger" has brought 594 barrels in packs.

I understand from the Commissariat, that they are expecting to receive about 16,000 salmas of Indian corn, in addition to that already received.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 12, 1847.

BESIDES the Admiralty clothing referred to in my official letter of to-day's date, you will see, from the accompanying papers, that a further quantity [c. 2.]

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tity is available from the same source, and that about 7700 blankets and 7400 rugs are to be had from the Ordnance; besides all which, the Ordnance are to bring together a large quantity of pillows, palliasses, and flannel hospital dresses from the out-stations.

The Admiralty clothing will be sent direct to Dublin without delay, and the Ordnance bedding and clothing will be collected at London, Bristol, and Liverpool, and sent to you in like manner.

It will, perhaps, save time in the end, and lead to the service being performed in a more complete and satisfactory manner, if all these different supplies of clothing are sent first to Dublin, in order that they may be sorted under your superintendence, and the quantity appropriated to each Union sent off in a regular manner.

These are large resources, and you should inform the Lord Lieutenant without loss of time, that they have been placed at your disposal, and suggest to his Excellency to withdraw to an equal extent the authority which has been given to the Poor Law Commissioners to provide clothing for the inmates of the Unions.

If, as I understand, each Board of Poor Law Guardians has been authorized themselves to provide the clothing they require for their respective Unions, it is to be feared that a great proportion of the clothing could not be procured in the remote country places in which many of the Union Houses are situated without great delay and a heavy additional expense, besides other objections, which make such a course of proceeding undesirable, except in a case of extreme necessity.

Captain Glascock appears, from his Report, to have countenanced a plan for the Government establishing seed depôts, and lending money to farmers to cultivate their own lands; and Captain Dent has, in some degree, adopted the same course.

Pray write to these officers, and beg of them to confine themselves to the objects prescribed in their instructions, and point out to them how undesirable it is that any countenance should be given at this eleventh hour, and on so extremely delicate and vital a point as the cultivation of the land, to the people depending upon the Government, instead of upon their own exertions.

I will immediately arrange for a further supply of barley meal and Indian corn meal for Belmullet. The quickest way of accomplishing this would be to direct the "Odin" to proceed thither from Kenmare with the rest of her cargo; but I will consult with Mr. Erichsen and the Admiralty about it, and let you know the result to-morrow.

As no store-room is to be had at Killybegs, pray request Mr. Dolree to arrange with Count Strelinsky to procure the store-room required for the London Association at Ballina or Sligo, as may be most convenient, the store-room being hired and paid for by us, and the supplies being taken entire charge of by our officers, and held by them at the disposal of the Count.

You will, in like manner, take charge through Mr. Schovell of all the Association's stores at Dublin, and pay Mr. Schovell's dues, as well as the shipping dues, on receiving and despatching, it being the wish of the Government that the expenditure of these private charitable funds should, as far as possible, be disburthened of every contingent charge.

We will take care both of Clifden and Belmullet.

Captain HAYMES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Parsonstown, King's County, February 10, 1847.

THERE is great difficulty in finding persons either fitted for, or willing to act as members of the Relief Committees, from a fear of rendering themselves obnoxious to the people. Thus the work is generally left to the secretaries, who being mostly of the clergy, are actuated more by their benevolent feelings, than by any other consideration.

The superior classes, of whom but few are in the country, are, to a man, using their best endeavours, both by precept and example, to get the people to work

on the land. As far as their particular estates are concerned they have succeeded; but the small farmers are perfectly idle; and although I am well assured that persons of this class have both money and seed, they will not make use of either, under the impression that the Government will do it for them. These are holders of from 15 to 30 acres.

In many places the private subscriptions have been liberal in the extreme, chiefly in towns, from the shopkeepers, retired officers, bankers, and persons on small independent incomes; but in the rural districts, where all the above classes are not to be found, there is a woful falling off. In many instances the reputed landlords have returned no answers to the frequent applications from Relief Committees for subscriptions; and when they did subscribe, the amount was insignificant. The small farmer has never subscribed a shilling, but in many instances got his son on the Public Works, whilst he sits by his fire smoking his pipe all day and night; and there is no doubt that persons of this class have large sums deposited in the various banks, of which each town contains two or more.

There is a practice which obtains here, and will convince you there is no dearth of money in the country. Many of the small holders of land, from ten acres downwards, are taking measures for emigrating. The man living near one of these, possessing, perhaps, from 15 to 20 acres himself, will have no hesitation in giving 15*l.*, 17*l.*, and even 19*l.* an acre, merely for the *goodwill*, as it is called, to the man wishing to emigrate. The purchaser on such terms can never expect a return from the land, but he looks forward to becoming a *tenant landlord*, if I may so term it, when he will subdivide this land to a dozen persons at a high rent, and get his own holding worked comparatively for nothing. In this baneful practice the real owner of the soil is never consulted; and though he may protest, he has no means of preventing it. I had heard of this practice before, but the above was communicated to me by undoubted authority as a transaction that had taken place this very day. The people appear to me to become more orderly as the destitution increases, and I firmly believe there would be but little difficulty in getting them on the land, if the farmers would come forward as they ought; more particularly as they can now obtain gratuitous relief in aid of what they may be able to earn.

The soup kitchens are doing wonders; and at last I have been enabled to convince the Relief Committees of their efficacy. You will see, from my Report, that I had in some degree anticipated the new Bill, by strongly recommending to all the Committees, that all gratuitous relief should come through these kitchens, as being less liable to abuse, and a means of husbanding their funds. They have, in most cases, adopted all my suggestions, and have promised to adhere most strictly to the "Instructions" in future; but what can we expect from men acting under bodily fear? Robberies of articles of food are of frequent occurrence, but no outrages by bodies, or singly, have lately been perpetrated in this county. On the whole, with the exception of two parishes, this county may be considered well off, when compared with many others.

Lieut.-Colonel DOUGLAS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Commerz, Kilmacdonagh, February 12, 1847.

BEFORE leaving Clonmel, the day before yesterday, the agent of the Mining Company of Ireland, in the districts of Killmaule, waited upon me to tell me that he had received instructions to discharge 100 men from the coal mines in the vicinity of Ballynanty. He has now 400 men at work four days in the week, earning 2*s.* a day.

The agent, Mr. Nicholson, asked me whether it would be better to turn off 100, or to keep on the whole 400, three days in the week. He stated that the Company have been, for the last six months, incurring a monthly loss of 50*l.*, in selling provisions under cost to the miners, and that the Company cannot continue this, for there is no demand for *cuba*. The farmers are not drawing any for agricultural purposes. There are now 35,000 tons at the mouth of the pits, and no demand for it.

As the agent asked my advice, I begged him not to think of discharging any men; to write again to the Company, to entreat the continuance of things as they are for another month, until the new bill for out-door relief shall come into operation; but that, if the Company would not consent to this, to put the whole 400 men on three days' work.

You may depend upon it that matters are becoming worse every day. Destitution is daily reaching higher and different classes. In spite of what I have heard in the public papers, I am sure that, generally speaking, there is not so much corn sown as last year—certainly not more. The circumstance of the little demand for culm *for lime burning*, in the Killinacle district, where hitherto there has been a great demand for it before this period of the year, speaks volumes in regard to the unsatisfactory prospect for next year. In no part of the country which I have visited are the farmers, the large ones even, making the least effort to employ the people; on the contrary, they are discharging their servants to a still greater extent. I could prove to you instances of farmers, with 40 or 50 cows, who have discharged all their men but *one*.

But the diminished value of manure proves, beyond a doubt, the backward and bad condition of agriculture. In this part of the world manure is to be had at 2*d.* a load from the poor people; this sold last year at 8*d.*; and the price of all articles of food is increased.

About eight weeks is the utmost limit of time during which anything can be done for the wants of next year. I do not believe that much will be done. However, of one thing we may be certain, that next year will, in all probability, be worse than this. The next few weeks will form a very important era in the history of this country.

Sir JOHN BURGOGNE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

February 11, 1847.

The new Board met this day, pursuant to the Lord Lieutenant's warrant, and sat together for three hours.

The calamity seems to be spreading to the north and east, without much countervailing ability or energy (whichever it is that is deficient) to meet it.

Colonel Jones has a report from one of his officers of almost a total deficiency of food of any kind at a town (Tinahely) in the hills of Wicklow, *within 30 or 40 miles of Dublin*, and no arrangements in operation for obtaining a supply. The ordinary courses of trade and distribution seem in many cases to be stopped.

We have been chalking out a line for the formation of the Electoral and Finance Committees; their regulations and instructions will be a delicate matter for consideration.

I find that very favourable accounts have been received of the fish-curing stations, that is, as regards every thing up to the balance of account of buying and selling. Even if there should be a little loss attending it (though I will hope none), still under present circumstances, the providing of employment in the production of food to those who would themselves otherwise add to the number of destitute, would tend to *economy*, and the establishments might eventually perhaps be made over to private parties or companies for a moderate consideration, and thus get into a *legitimate* channel. I hope, therefore, that the Treasury will see reason to encourage the extension of these stations, where it is advised that there is a promising opening.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir J. BURGOGNE.

February 13, 1847.

We have been aware for some time past of the scarcity of food in the southern part of the county of Wicklow, and I have been in communication with Lord Fitzwilliam and the London Relief Association on the subject of it. Lord Fitzwilliam showed me a letter from his agent, from which it appeared that a soup kitchen had been established at Tinahely, from which large quantities of food were issued, and the Association promised to send a cargo of provisions to Arklow, but finding that the harbour at that place was insufficient, it was sent

instead to Wexford. I wrote to the chairman again to-day, and suggested that another cargo of meal should be sent direct from Liverpool to Arklow.

We never looked upon the new Act as a complete remedy, or expected that it would prevent very severe suffering in many quarters, but it is considered the best measure that could be adopted under the circumstances of the case; and if the upper and middle classes heartily co-operate with us, it will save more lives and give more time for permanent remedies than anything else that could be done.

A draft of instructions to the Commission, regarding the issue of money to the Finance Committees, and other similar matters, has been prepared, and will be sent by to-day's post to Sir R. Routh, for his and your suggestions. Mr. Bromley, the accountant, will proceed to Dublin on Wednesday, with another admiralty clerk, as his assistant, selected by himself.

Sir R. Routh has, no doubt, shown you what I have lately written to him about seed; the quantity of barley and oat seed which could be procured in this country by our utmost exertions, and with a serious risk of embarrassing English growers, is so small that it would not be worth the evil which the interference of Government must produce.

You have no doubt heard, since writing your letter, that a fourth fish-curing station has been sanctioned at Baltimore, and that a private company is being formed in the city for carrying on the fisheries on a large scale in the south of Ireland. The fish cured at our stations will, I hope, furnish a useful resource; and if these establishments are economically conducted, we may hope that they will shortly become part of the permanent industry of the country, by their being transferred to private individuals or companies. The new fishing company will take the Baltimore station off our hands, if it is well managed. Mr. Mulvany has written to Sir T. Dick Lauder to send an experienced fish-curer, and we will send salt if it is required.

MR. FORSTER TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, February 13, 1847.

I HAVE, since my last, visited New Ross, Waterford, Knocktopher, and the country in that road. Waterford is of course much better off, having more resources to fall back on: the other places depend principally on the Government Works, the wages of which, assisted by the private aid and Government grants, keeps (as far as I can find out) the peasantry in this locality in a better condition than, or at least as good as ordinary. I have seen very few apparently without clothes, and shoes and stockings, &c. in tolerable order; they look well, and their health is as high or higher than is general at this season. I saw before leaving London worse cases (to judge from appearances) than I have seen round here. Of course I do not speak of their habitations, a good deal of that being habit; but I think great distress and difficulty will arise as the Government Works close, and before they have got into other regular employment. Around New Ross particularly, I cannot find that there is much hope of employment for the people. They have their 1200 on the soup kitchen list. I have made particular inquiries for cases of extreme destitution or of great want, and although I am of course enabled to give meal to cases requiring immediate aid, I have not seen any place in present want. Arklow, I think, requires a depôt of meal, and perhaps further aid; and I shall send some few clothes to Knocktopher, as purchasing them is a great drain on private funds; but I have not heard of a case in the above road that would at all fall under the verdict of "Died from want of food." Ballymaheen, a district on the sea-coast, and where, for some reason, the proprietors, who do not generally reside in that neighbourhood, were late and not large subscribers, is perhaps an exception. I go there on Tuesday or Wednesday next. The Society of Friends here have been very active, promising to give 20*l*. and a boiler when the local subscriptions reached 50*l*., by which means they have collected 57*l*., and have begun a soup kitchen.

Between this and Knocktopher the farm-yards appear better stocked with grain, and the land better attended to than I have generally seen. I will write a full account of Ballymaheen, which is, by universal consent, the most distressed district in this vicinity.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Sligo, February 13, 1847.

A HEAVY fall of snow, and a hard frost, since the 7th instant, has interrupted the Public Works, and filled our streets and highways with paupers, and starving people of all descriptions, who, during this suspension, are left without any resources of their own for the subsistence of themselves and families; it has however, had the effect of stimulating us to put up another soup boiler, and to extend this invaluable mode of relief to a much wider sphere than before. These establishments, both public and private, which I have taken the greatest interest in promoting, and in aiding from private funds at my disposal throughout my district, work admirably well so far, and are now resorted to eagerly, not only by the destitute and those who receive a ticket from the hands of individual charity, but by the room-keeper, mechanics, and by even the teachers of the *talents d'agrémens*, who are fast verging into *pauvres honteux*, and thankfully accept the penny ticket I enclose, 10,000 of which have been gratuitously struck off for us by a house at Birmingham. The ration is a quart of soup, with a lump of bread of about five ounces dropped into it; the sixpenny loaf yesterday weighed 14½lb. Unfortunately there is no getting any bread made, except from the best flour owing to a combination amongst the bakers, whose interest it is, and who with many other classes, such as quay porters, carriers, lightermen, &c., carry their point by intimidation; every attempt on the part of the Committee to have a coarser and cheaper description made, has been defeated by the impossibility of getting journeymen-bakers, who are threatened with their lives if they work in opposition to the interests of their craft. I should add, on the report of the meal merchants, that there has been a lull in the sale of bread stuffs lately, which they attribute to the soup shops; their stock on hand is quite adequate to the demand, and I feel every confidence that they will continue to keep this market well supplied. Persons of all classes and trades, who have a small capital, are turning flour merchants; and Government, by thus leaving the door open to private enterprise, where it existed, has saved the country from starvation and want.

Excepting amongst the landlords and stout farmers, not a move is making to crop; the lands lie *statu quo*, choked with weeds; and although it is true that the Irishman's time to put his spade to the ground has not yet arrived, I fully believe that most of the small holdings will remain fallow all the summer. Ground in which potatoes have been planted is always fit for a crop of oats the ensuing year, but the stubble lands require plunging up during the frost, and being well dressed; and these lie untouched. The millers assure me that the people are bringing in to them for sale *lots of two and three stone* of wheat and oats they had hitherto reserved for seed, and there is a determination on the part of many landlords not to supply their tenants.

The mortality amongst the horses is becoming very alarming, and is spreading very much, owing to the price of oats, and to the unprecedented hard work required of them in circulating the imported food throughout the interior; so extensive is it, that in many places the work of the plough will have to be done by the spade. Had the small farmers the means of paying for their labour, this might be turned to advantage, by drawing more men off the Public Works; but they are not in the mood to face their ordinary labours, much less to grapple with additional difficulties. This loss amongst the horses is not without its prospective embarrassment, now that the subsistence of the people will mainly depend for years on imported food, which must be transported from the sea-coast. The pigs also, which, like so many walking savings' banks, paid their owner's house-rent, have ceased to exist with the cottier; and the poultry, which helped to supply clothes and other comforts, have likewise disappeared. The dogs are dying fast, and preying upon each other. Every former source of subsistence is drying up, without a glimpse of any permanent relief, except from the hands of public or private charity. It is impossible to say how many die daily, but the people are patient and peaceable under their great sufferings. The workhouses are full of inmates dying with fever, dysentery, and diarrhoea, many going in at the last stage to secure a coffin; but about the country there is no epidemic nor prevalent sickness beyond the natural results of want and destitution. Groups of women and children are swarming about our streets from the rural districts; they beg all day, and pay 3d. a week for passing the night on some straw in

some of the houses in the skirts of the town. A few nights since an inmate of one of these houses of refuge died in the night and was thrown into the street.

Indian meal in the market is still 20*l.* per ton; it had reached 21*l.* The great fall has been in oats, from 48*s.* to 36*s.* per sack of 24 stone.

I know not if I may venture to express an opinion, with every deference and respect, regarding the measures before Parliament. It is much to be lamented that Lord John Russell has not such materials for carrying out his plan for the cultivation of *waste* lands as might give him some hopes of success; but when we see how the attempt has failed in the hands of private individuals, labouring for their own interests, and with their own means, it is impossible to be sanguine as to its results, when undertaken by these listless half-starved people under Government servants. It is, notwithstanding, one of those measures which very prominently suggests itself in promising ultimate good if it could be carried out, and worth any outlay to compass, even though years were to elapse before it bore fruit. The whole social and moral system of this country is so vitiated, that the difficulties which Government will have to encounter in the tedious and long treatment of this now chronic disease, will only be equalled by the continually aggravating drawbacks that will present themselves at almost every stage of the cure.

Captains Wellesley and Gifford are both at their posts, and will relieve me of much duty I could not find time to perform effectively. I can assure you that I am at my desk generally from 9 in the morning till 11 o'clock p.m., with very little interruption.

I am sorry to inform you that I received an express in the night from the Coast Guard, informing me that the "*Regina*," with a cargo of corn for us, had got ashore in Killala Bay. I despatched Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Osborn this morning early to see what was to be done. We shall probably take her cargo to Ballina, if it can be saved.

As far as the Commissariat arrangements are concerned, there are no difficulties; but it is not exaggerating things to say, that the distress is beyond the reach of human aid to relieve; we can only alleviate.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

February 11, 1847.

I SEND you copy of a Report from Mr. Bishop. East Skull has since received a donation, but I cannot now refer to the book.

I enclose to you a subscription list from Skibbereen, amounting to a large sum, and I request your opinion as to the donation to be given. No part of it is raised in the locality, but is the result of their petitions to England and Ireland. It amounts to 101*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, and as the begging continues to be found so productive, there will be several editions. Do you think I am bound to give a similar amount?

In reference to your letter about Clifden, I send you extract of a letter from Mr. Parker, and as I know the Committee are very indolent and inactive, I have allowed him to make one day's issue in detail from his own stores. It is a very peculiar situation, and offers no precedent, unless it be Belmullet.

If Mr. Hewetson could contrive it, I think it would be an advantage to ship a supply of his last year's meal from Limerick sufficient to fill up the depot at Clifden and Belmullet. I have written him to do so if he can, but I fear there will be no means of shipment at his disposal. We can wait a little for Clifden, but owing to the wreck of the last cargo destined for Belmullet, we are in want there, if you have an opportunity of sending us a shipment of anything eatable.

The Commission met this morning for about three hours, and canvassed the best and most expeditious means of giving effect to the new Act.

The Act not having yet passed, it was thought that the duties of the Relief Office must still continue to be carried on in my name until the Act shall be received. I have therefore all the correspondence still on my shoulders. There will no doubt be some Treasury Minute to regulate our proceedings on several points, particularly as regards money, whether that is to be provided through me or direct.

I sent to Hodges and Smith, the mapsellers, for a map containing the electoral divisions, which will now be a very necessary reference; but the price frightened

me, and I would not venture to buy it without your permission. I enclose their letter.

And now about the rye, which is almost a new article in Ireland. It is evidently a grain which should be encouraged here, particularly in the north. It is much used in America, mixed with the Indian meal in equal quantities, and it is an excellent mixture in like quantities with wheat. The great temptation is the price; but all things considered, I am afraid to recommend an increased purchase to arrive on or about the same period, as it will occupy so large a space. The quantity now under contract can only be ordered to two of our ports, from whence we may distribute it, say 2000 tons to Limerick, and 2000 tons to Sligo, and of the latter, part might be consigned to Killibegs, and part to Ballina, but the greater quantity to Sligo. The Limerick consignment should call at Kilrush for orders.

If there is any failure in sowing, or if the harvest is deficient next year, we may regret having declined this offer, but this is arguing on contingencies.

Remains at Belmullet:—

Indian meal		1140 sacks.
Wheaten meal		148 "
Pens		427 quarters.

ENCLOSURE.

Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Sir R. ROSS.

Siddhona, February 7, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the past week, I have revisited the several districts of Baltimore, Ballydehob, Skull, Crookhaven, &c.

It was with regret I found that owing to the want of boilers, the soup kitchens proposed for the Islands of Shirkon and Clear, had not come into operation. I urged upon the Soup Committee to send an immediate supply of biscuit, rice, and pens, from Baltimore, to these islands, the issue to be supported from the soup funds, until the arrival of boilers.

At Ballydehob, I found the pressure of distress had greatly increased since my former visit. The funds of the Relief Committee are nearly exhausted, the balance being but 7l., with a claim upon the Skull Committee's fund, as their share on the separation from that body.

There is a soup kitchen established by Mr. James H. Swanton, upon a private fund of about 190l., which has been affording extensive relief since last November, and there is a further fund of 190l. in the hands of the Protestant clergyman. I have suggested the amalgamation of these funds, so as to found an application to Government, for a grant upon the whole, which would enable the Soup Committee to extend their operation to the remote parts of the parish, which are not accessible to individual exertions.

As a preliminary, the Relief Committee finding their funds so nearly exhausted, has formed itself into a Soup Committee. I enclose a copy of the resolution passed on the occasion.

Mr. J. H. Swanton has promised to furnish immediately a list of the subscriptions received by him, and I hope the reverend Curate will be induced to contribute to the soup establishment the funds (190l.) placed at his disposal, and thus have the amount doubled.

The Relief Committee without funds is inoperative. It cannot take advantage of the provisions in the depot at Skull. Captain Harston, on the part of the British Association, has placed a gratuitous supply at the disposal of this Committee, but the steamer (the "Dragon") in which it is embarked, has, I am this moment informed, broken down en route.

The Ballydehob or East Skull Relief Committee has been recently formed. A serious amount of distress has been thrown upon the exertions of this Committee; and being without funds, it is alarmed at the responsibility. This has led to the strong resolution lately put forth. Immediate assistance is requisite to enable this body to extend its functions as a Soup Committee, for there is a fearful amount of destitution and mortality in the district.

At Skull, the Soup Committee is using the most praiseworthy exertion to extend the benefit of these establishments.

At Crookhaven, or Goleen, the Soup Committee is exerting its best efforts to afford relief, but owing to the want of boilers, the distribution of soup is yet upon a limited scale. An unfortunate dissension between the clergymen of the respective churches, acts injuriously upon the efforts of the Committee in carrying out the benevolent instructions under which funds have been contributed.

Throughout East and West Skull, and Kilmoe, the average daily mortality has greatly increased since my last visit. Disease has too firm a hold to be checked by food, of which Crookhaven has an abundant store, and there is a well supplied depot for East and West Skull.

Rice, biscuit, or bread, appears to be an indispensable adjunct to a soup diet.

Resolved,—*1st*, That the members of the Ballydoole East Skull Relief Committee be formed also into a Soup Committee, with the addition of the following names:—

East Skull Relief Committee.	Rev. J. Tripphook, Clerk	East Skull Relief Committee.	Charles O'Regan
	Rev. James Barry, P. P.		James Atteridge
	Rev. John Barry, R. C. C.		C. R. Brown
	Richard Townsend, J. P., Chairman		H. Moore
	Samuel Townsend, J. P.		J. R. Swanton
	John Limrick, J. P.		Hugh H. Swanton
	Thomas Swanton		Andrew Caverley
	James H. Swanton		Timothy Dillon
	John A. Ingo		William Shannon
	Thomas C. Atteridge		John Dowe
	Robert Swanton		P. Willis
	John Caverley		John Willis
	Robert Swanton		John Atteridge
	William Swanton		Captain William Long
	Richard Barry		Captain William Thomas
	Henry Justice		Captain Charles Thomas

and that Robert Swanton of Gortnagrough, be secretary, treasurer, and manager of the soup establishment, and that any funds now available, be put down for the soup kitchen, and that premises be taken at once, and application made to Mr. Commissary Bishop and Captain Harrison, from the British Association, for boilers to contain about 400 gallons of soup, and for funds to enable the Committee to give relief to the suffering poor in soup and bread stuffs, through the entire of the east parish of Skull, containing over 5000 (five thousand) most destitute paupers, and that our Secretary transmit at once copies of this resolution to the above knights and gentlemen, with a list to the former of the amount now put down for the soup kitchen.

The amount in our treasurer's hands at present being for the soup kitchen for East Skull, as well as we can calculate, deducting charges, &c. yet unpaid.

Balance to be handed over to us as our portion of the funds in the hands	
of Treasurer to Skull Committee, about	£30 0 0
Balance now in our Treasurer's hands, about	7 0 0
A sum allocated to East Skull, by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork	20 0 0
Subscription from J. H. Swanton	10 0 0
(Signed)	JAMES BARRY, Chairman.

SIR,

February 6, 1847.

It devolves on me to have the honour to forward you these our first Resolutions.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

R. SWANTON, Secretary.

Wm. Bishop, Esq., Assistant Commissary-General,
Shillbreen.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSARY-GENERAL PARKES.

Clydes, February 5, 1847.

IN obedience to your orders, I have only issued supplies to Relief Committees. The measures which might be salutary for the rest of Ireland, might not be desirable or practicable in Connaught, still it may be well even here not to issue in detail at present. I cannot, however, conceal from you the conviction of my mind, that Committees, and especially Sub-Committees, are managed here far differently from those I was accustomed to superintend in the Queen's County. Indeed I had almost arrived at the conclusion that 10*l*. worth of meal issued by a Commissariat officer, would go farther in relieving the poor and destitute than 30*l*. worth sold to a Relief Committee. I am far from wishing to impeach these gentlemen, particularly as some of them are, I am convinced, men of the nicest honour and character, perfectly incapable of either acting or conniving at wrong, but it should be borne in mind, that they are a very poor people, and cannot really devote that time which the service requires, and hence Deputies are appointed who may not be influenced by the same principles of rectitude.

I have been led into these perhaps unnecessary observations by the dissatisfaction of the people, who appear to think they would get better dealings through me. It is however clear that time does not permit the Committee to satisfy one-half of the people, and if I could venture to suggest any remedy in opposition to the rule you have laid down, it would be for me to sell to the destitute on Saturdays, the market day. This would not only have the effect of relieving the poor, but of giving the people an opportunity of judging between my system and that of the Committees.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 13, 1847.

I SEND herewith a first sketch of Instructions to the Commission in regard to the issues of money and other similar matters, and I shall be obliged to you

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to show it to Sir John Burgoyne, and to send me any observations which you or he may have to make upon it.

Another copy has been sent to Mr. Kennedy for his remarks, and it is desirable that you should confer with him about it.

Mr. Bromley, the Accountant to the Commission, will proceed to Dublin on Wednesday, with a clerk of his own selection to assist him.

Mr. Jones Lloyd has just been with me to inform me that the cargo which the Association sent to Wexford is not wanted there, and that they intend to instruct Mr. Forster (a master in the Navy), who is in charge of it, to take the vessel round, if possible, to Arklow.

Pray depute some person you can depend on to receive the cargo at Arklow, and to arrange with the Relief Committees at Tinahely, Sheenassa, and other places in the neighbourhood where there is the greatest want of food, to purchase and fetch away such quantities as they may require.

You can at once write to Mr. Forster to tell him what arrangements you have made to assist him in effecting the proper distribution of his cargo.

Whether you recommend a donation to meet the large sum which the Skilbreen Committee have got together from other quarters, and if so, to what extent, must depend upon whether it is required. We must in no case give where we do not consider it really necessary, and nothing that has been said hinders us to do so.

I presume that Messrs. Hodges and Smith's charge is 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for the map of each county; but even at that rate, you must get a set if the Commission require it. The payment goes to the Government whose maps they are, but you might save the charge for commission by getting them direct from the Ordnance Office at Mountjoy.

We entirely agree with you that it would not be advisable to get a further quantity of rye to arrive at the end of June, beyond the 4,000 tons already ordered, and it has been so decided. You will be made acquainted with other arrangements which I have made in concert with Mr. Erichsen, by the following copy of a memorandum which I have just received from that gentleman.

Can you receive at Belmullet the whole 200 tons of barley meal and 75 tons of rice, which will reach that place in the "Odin" after Lord Lansdowne's barley and oat seed has been left on *passant* at Kenmare?

ENCLOSURE.

MESSRS. ERICHSEN TO MR. TREVELYAN.

110, Fenchurch-street,
London, February 13, 1847.

We have the honour to state that, agreeably with your instructions, we have ordered from Liverpool (besides those previously ordered), 30 boilers of 100 gallons each, to be forwarded as Sir Randolph Routh may instruct our Agents, Messrs. Jones, Mann, and Foster, of that place.

The first lot of seed will be forwarded next week, and the second the week following, both consisting chiefly of turnip, swards, and mangel-wurzel seed. From Belgium and France we shall know the result of our operations in eight or ten days. We are endeavouring to buy here 100 quarters of peas and 100 quarters of beans fit for seed, and shall forward them to Dublin.

We are in treaty for a cargo of Indian corn for Dublin, to be sent to Longford for grinding. We have declined the offer of a contract for another 4,000 tons of rye meal, according to your directions.

The "Odin" will be dispatched on Tuesday or Wednesday, or as soon as we can get the barley and oat seed ready, for Kenmare. We understand that it is your wish that this steamer should proceed to Belmullet after discharging the seed at Kenmare. She will have on board more than 200 tons of barley meal, and about 75 tons of rice.

Two vessels are now loading here for Killibegs with barley meal in sacks and barrels, and we have written to our agent at Portsmouth to charter a vessel to load about 200 tons of barley meal from the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard, and despatch her to Killibegs.

Captain HILL to MR. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, February 14, 1847.

In my last, I mentioned that I had suggested to the proprietors of the Kiltalee district in the barony of Coonagh the benefit the poor would derive by

their contributing to the funds of the Committee, namely, my Lords Sandwich, Ashbrooke, Aldborough, and Kenmare, the Rev. Mr. Lloyd Apjohn, Messrs. Moore, J.P., and Manning.

Lord Sandwich has replied that he has given directions to his agent to subscribe towards the relief funds of the parishes in which he has property. Mr. Manning has declined to contribute, stating "there are no poor on his property, still it is heavily mortgaged under the Labour Relief Act for the support of strangers on unproductive works totally unconnected with it." I think if Mr. Manning came to Kiltoskey he would find he had several poor on his property, and that many of them are on the Public Works, at least this is the information given to me yesterday by the Catholic curate of the parish. The other gentlemen have not acknowledged the receipt of my letters.

I also suggested to the large proprietors of the Bruff district the necessity of their subscribing to the relief funds of the Bruff Committee. Lord Montague, as trustee to the late Lord Limerick's property, immediately replied that 100*l.* for the relief funds and 20*l.* for the soup-kitchen, should be forwarded, to be applied according to the directions issued by the Government. Archdeacon Mannsall has also promised to contribute to the funds according to my suggestion.

Count de Salis, whose property is said to be 7,000*l.* per annum in the district, has acknowledged my letter by referring me to his agents. Mr. Creed, another proprietor, has not yet replied.

I fear some of the Committees in this county will not prove very good agents for distributing food under the new measures; although the distress of the poor is beyond belief, it does not bring forth the honest, active energies of half the residents, and in some districts, I think, they can hardly be entrusted with the duties.

I know not whether the laws of England respecting the adulteration and sale of bread by weight extend to Ireland or not, but throughout the whole of this county, the city of Limerick included, bread is sold without any regard to weight (and, as I have heard, much adulterated); in one instance, I found a small loaf of 11 ounces sold at 3*d.*; this was in a small village near Newcastle. If the laws do extend to this country, it would be of great service if they were carried into effect, and a notice posted at every police station, for there is no check to imposition at present, and the poor people are often imposed on without being aware of any means of redress.

Fever and dysentery are on the increase; the weather lately has been very bad for the poor people, but I hope we may now expect it will clear up.

Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 14, 1847.

HAVING visited many of the distressed parts of West Carberry since my letter to you of the 29th ultimo, a few words upon the more immediate condition of the population may not be uninteresting.

At Skull, in both the east and west division, I found the distress or rather the mortality had greatly increased. In the wild mountain district, lying between Ballydehob and Crookhaven, the population is so scattered that it is difficult to find out where disease exists. When fever attacks the inhabitants of a cabin, there is no help for them; the nearest relative of the party attacked will not assist them—no persuasion will induce them to enter a cabin where fever is, though it may contain a parent, or a child. Thus many die from positive neglect, and the bodies are allowed to rot upon the straw from the dread of contagion. None but strangers, hired by the clergy, will assist in the burial. There being no legal register of deaths kept in this county, it is very difficult to ascertain correctly the amount of mortality. The clergymen admit that they can give but a very imperfect estimate; many die without their knowledge, the church rites being now generally disregarded. Many bodies are buried, or rather a little earth thrown over them, in fields; the relations saying "better times may come when they will be able to get a coffin and church rites for the bones." This imperfect interment may lead to alarming results when hot weather sets in; some stringent sanatory regulations appear requisite.

Throughout the parish of Kilmoe, I found a very perceptible change for the worse. Fever, dysentery, and consequent death have greatly increased; the poor people have no stamina left to sustain disease; the moment they are attacked, they, without an effort, give themselves up to what they term "their fate"—they resignedly say, "it is the will of God," and die!

The Relief Committees at Skull and Crookhaven exert themselves greatly to benefit the poor. There is an ample supply of provisions at each place.

At Baltimore, and on the islands of Sherkin, and Clear, there is great distress, particularly on the islands; however, the people are more healthy than on the opposite peninsula, and the mortality is comparatively small. There is a great supply of provisions at Baltimore, sufficient to prevent starvation if judiciously applied. An early application of some arrangements relative to the fisheries in the neighbourhood would be very desirable; it is an entire fishing population, but an unfortunate necessity has deprived them of the means of pursuing their avocations. Nets, lines, boats, all are in pawn. Those released, and some judicious arrangements made as to markets, salt, &c., (no premium), there is every reason to hope that these people would return steadily to their legitimate employment.

Large sums of money have apparently injudiciously been sent to individuals for the use of the poor; the parties receiving these contributions have, with very few exceptions, kept the entire control over them, instead of applying them to the Relief or Soup-Committee's funds, thus depriving the poor of the advantage which they would have derived from the Government donation upon their subscriptions. It has further been the cause of much acrimonious discussion, and serious dissension between the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen.

The arrangement for the distribution of the provisions sent to this country by the British Association, will require a larger staff than appears to be contemplated. An experienced and active officer, a man of business, should be stationed at Cove, or much confusion and delay must arise in the appropriation of cargoes as they arrive. It appears also essential that an agent of the Association should make Skibbereen, or that neighbourhood, his head-quarters, to be constantly on the spot, to control the supplies sent to the coast between Clonskilty and Crookhaven. Another agent, or Commissariat officer acting under advice, would be requisite for Berehaven, Bantry, &c.

The large towns in this county are suffering much from the great influx of paupers from the rural districts. The city of Cork is perfectly inundated. It is asserted that many thousands have entered the city during the past week.

Colonel STOKES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Lassinagh, Tralee, February 15, 1847.

HOWEVER desirous the Government may be to stop Public Works, I believe they will find it impossible to do so during the spring and summer in districts such as this, where the landlords are not intending to do any thing on an unusual scale for the employment of the labourers.

I believe no more productive works could be engaged in than opening mountain districts by good roads, thus leading to the cultivation of tracts heretofore barren and waste.

Although the selection of the works to be passed at extraordinary sessions rests with magistrates and cess-payers, many of whom may be interested in particular lines, yet, were the county surveyors, and the other local engineers of the Board of Works prepared, on such occasions, with recommendations of an useful nature, such as I have adverted to, they would generally be attended to. Besides, when such lines happen to be passed, the Board of Works, in sanctioning the works to be executed, should give them a preference.

Were the Board of Works to give instructions to their officers on this head, it might be useful, and lead to more productive works being fixed on than now always are.

I agree with you that without the assistance of the local gentry, it would be impossible for the Government to feed the people.

Sir J. Burgoyne, in working out the new relief measures, must be, therefore, careful not to leave any room for doubt as to where the responsibility rests;

for, if a door for escape be left, many gentlemen, who now feel their responsibility as members of Relief Committees, will relieve themselves from it by saying that the Government have undertaken the work of relieving the people. They will consider themselves as the persons coming to the assistance of the Government, instead of the Government as coming forward to aid them in doing what it is the country gentlemen's duty to do.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 15, 1847.

ALTHOUGH you do not say that it is intended to appoint an inspecting officer to every Union, I infer that you want more inspecting officers than you have.

I have, therefore, sent my list of applicants, which is now a very long one, to the Admiralty, and have requested them to select from this list and from another similar one which they have, as many officers as they think will come quite up to our mark, and the persons so selected will be ready in case your Commission should want their services. Captain Hamilton tells me that he can furnish a few equal to the best we have got.

Sir Arthur Brook called on me to-day to ask whether his estate in Fermanagh could be dealt with under the new Act separately from his neighbours. I told him that three electoral divisions which belong entirely to him might, I supposed, be included in one Relief Committee, but two other electoral divisions of which he has the greater part, but not the whole, must be dealt with in the ordinary way.

He requested me to state what had passed to Sir John Burgoyne to whom I shall be obliged to you to show this letter. Sir Arthur said that he was feeding all his people from soup kitchens established by him.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 15, 1847.

I HAVE your two letters of the 12th and 13th this morning. As soon as all the clothing arrives, I shall prepare an account in duplicate, one for the Commission and one for the Lord-Lieutenant, and dispose of it on his Excellency's orders, most probably, as I imagine, for the Union Workhouses.

I have seen Mr. Kennedy, and I think the account part may be easily managed, but it appears to me that your estimate of 300,000*l.* is under the mark.

I think the supply of Belmullet by means of the "Odin" will do very well, if you will give the necessary orders.

There will be no difficulty in procuring store-room for the Association at Sligo or Belmullet, or at Dublin, but I think that they should have a *dépôt* at Athlone, for, owing to the distance and the defective means of conveyance, an order on Dublin is frequently tantamount to no order at all. I will make arrangements to ensure all due order and regularity.

The Belmullet stores will be prepared to receive the 200 tons of barley meal and the 75 tons of rice. I have apprized Mr. Bishop accordingly.

Mr. Gelston is arrived and has delivered the box. We shall try the soup to-morrow, but as to the biscuit, it is admirable. No one need wish for any thing better.

I expect Mr. Adams in a few days, who will afford considerable relief.

I enclose you our list of prices. We are charging in several of our stations, indeed in most 18*l.* 10*s.* for Indian corn, at two or three 19*l.* and at Limerick and Clare, 18*l.* The prices at Cork having fallen, and several cargoes having been sold at 17*l.* I thought it fair to place our Limerick *dépôt* for our last year's meal, at 18*l.* It must be disposed of before April 1; it would be neither safe nor prudent to keep it longer, and the dealers and other interested persons have been attempting to depreciate it in public estimation. Mr. Russell is charging 19*l.* but this is too high; and governing our prices by Cork and Liverpool, and not by the top market prices, and considering the necessity of disposing of our last year's stock, I have thought it a fair opportunity at this the

worst season of the year, to fix our prices at Limerick and its dependencies at 18*l*. As we conclude the sales of our old stock we shall revert to our former system.

I send you a copy of a letter from Mr. Hughes at Skibbereen, from which place it would appear that they are shipping off the paupers for England and Wales.

The Killarney Committee have renounced all their late feelings, and are disposed to co-operate cordially in all things. Not knowing whether Mr. Hewetson has sent you Captain Mann's report on Ardferit, I send you a copy, as it is important you should have it.

This being Monday I must conclude. I do not expect to be able to transfer any part of the correspondence or other matters until after this week.

I have forty-four subscription lists to-day.

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORANDUM of the PRICES to be charged on the SALE of PROVISIONS at the—
from the day following receipt of this authority, viz, —

	£.	s.	d.
Indian corn, per ton	17	10	0
Indian corn meal, per ton	18	10	0
Oatsmeal, per ton	23	10	0
Barley meal, per ton	15	0	0
Biscuit	16	0	0
Peas	16	0	0
Wheat meal	19	0	0

and to continue in force until further orders. Clifden, Belmullet, and Westport, still continue at 19*l*. for Indian corn meal, and at Limerick 18*l*.

Dublin, 1847.

To , Commissary-General.

Mr. HUGHES to Sir R. ROOTH.

Skibbereen Reserve Depot,
February 12, 1847.

I beg herewith to forward the weekly state of this depot.

The "Slabed" is at length come up the river, and I shall, weather permitting, get the barley meal into depot to-morrow.

Since writing yesterday, I find Dr. Donovan and Mr. Swainston are applying the funds sent to them for the destitute poor, in shipping the wretched naked creatures to England and Wales; the Mayor of Newport has detained a vessel belonging to the latter for landing paupers.

There was a heavy fall of snow on Monday and Tuesday; the cold is intense, wretchedness increasing, the poor are loud in their complaints, and say they are not getting any of the money sent for them.

Captain MANN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Kilrush, February 12, 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, covering the enclosed from Mr. Trevelyan, and have the honour to inform you that on the 10th instant I left this for the purpose of inquiring into the particulars therein stated. Having reached Ardferit at 5 p.m. the same day, and communicated with the Chairmen of the Relief Committee there, and arranged that a meeting should be called at 10 a.m. on the following day, I was obliged to proceed to Tralee, there being no accommodation whatever in the village.

Accordingly, at the hour named, I met the Committee next morning, and having stated the nature and occasion of my visit, received the following information:—

Ardferit is a small village, containing a population of 600 souls (about); it is six miles from Tralee, and depends entirely on that place for supplies. The Committee is a central one, embracing the parishes of O'Donoghue, Killybeg, and Killybeg, and represents about 11,800 souls. This part of the country has generally supplied the market of Tralee with potatoes, and that being the principal village, the poor around here have, from the failure, been the greater sufferers. There are three common situations round this locality, on which upwards of 1000 persons have squatted, and at this moment it is said to be so subdivided, that few have more than half an acre to a family, the generality only a quarter, by which a large pauper population has been created, and a large number of persons, widows and orphans, left.

There is but one resident landlord, Mr. Crosby, of Ardferit Abbey. He has established at his house a soup kitchen; from it is issued 600 quarts of soup each week—some sold at 1*d*., other $\frac{1}{2}$ *d*. per quart, and gratuitously to 50 persons, paid for out of his own purse, the kitchen being otherwise supported out of the subscription fund.

The subscription raised for the whole of the parishes named, amount to 350*l*., on which an application for a donation is said to have been made.

The Committee have procured, and continue to procure, a supply of meal, which is retailed to the poor by them at cost price; but it appears that there is an uncertainty in procuring a sufficient quantity from Tralee, and particularly of Indian corn meal, which they most want.

It appeared from causes which I could not clearly set down, that about 10 weeks previous to the date of the letter before alluded to, there had been an entire cessation of Public Works, which occasioned a dreadful state of suffering, particularly on a townland called Ballasprior, where the destitution was such that a man shot his ass, fed his family on it, and the resulting food caused sickness, on which an inquiry was held; and I was assured part of it was seen in salt by one of the Committee. This townland is held by a middleman, Mr. Jeremiah King, a solicitor, on a nominal rent and three lives, the fee simple only belonging to Mr. Crosby. It was represented to me as densely populated, very highly rented, the uttermost farthing exacted of the rent up to the last rent day, and on the 7th of January last 3l. only was contributed towards the frightful state of distress by that gentleman.

The medical man represented to me that disease had extended, and deaths had occurred to an alarming degree, which he mainly attributed to insufficient food and raiment, producing dysentery, colic, and fever. I visited the churchyard, and regret to say there were evident proofs that the letter was true.

The worst part of this statement existed up to a very short time since, but now the Public Works are resumed, with an extensive employment in drainage, and a better state of the poor in consequence; still a great deal requires to be done for the destitution of this locality.

Mr. Crosby states his position to be that of one with a property surrounded by others let by non-resident landlords, from whom he receives neither support nor co-operation, and that consequently he is severely oppressed by the want of those destitute persons about him, and that it is beyond his power to relieve them; that at first the men were disinclined to work at drainage, insufficient food having impaired their strength, and being unacquainted with the work, but that now they are falling in very satisfactorily.

The Committee are anxious to obtain a large boiler, which they have written for to the Secretary, Mr. Stanley, in order to extend their soup distribution; and I beg to suggest for consideration, as another application of the same kind has been made to me from the Ernistymon Committee, the propriety of consigning, say even half-a-dozen, boilers to me, which from my present position, I could distribute where most urgently required, or any number, to be supplied from this point.

I have promised a supply of 20 tons of meal to this Committee as soon as the funds or amount for payment is remitted to me, and the means of conveyance in my power, or that they will provide, or let me try to provide, a private means of sending it to them. The latter would be preferable, and is so in all cases where there is a want of quays or landing place at this season of the year. The expense of boats to take it away from our vessels, and the almost certainty of damage and loss by wet, will quite cover the expense of direct freightage, but it certainly shall be sent.

Having carefully inquired into the state of this locality, I am of opinion that the facts stated in the letter are fully borne out and did exist at that time, and that the same arose out of a sudden suspension of work and employment on the public roads before other means of earning money was provided; that an improvement is now taking place in the condition of the poor, but still it is a very distressed locality, calling for great exertions on the part of the Committee, and requiring every assistance that can be afforded it in the way of supplies, and a liberal grant on their subscription, which I beg to recommend.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 12, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, a copy of a letter from the Admiral-Superintendent at Malta, proposing, by way of experiment, to make biscuit from Indian corn meal, or from a mixture of the meal of wheat, barley, and Indian corn, for the relief of the distressed Irish, of which their Lordships have signified their approval.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir LUCIUS CURTIS to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Malta Dock-yard, January 24, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for their consideration, the copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Miller, the chief engineer of the dock-yard at Desport, suggesting that a few experiments should be made for making biscuit from Indian corn meal, or from a mixture of the meal of wheat, barley, and Indian corn.

The second paragraph states the proportions of meal to be used in making the experiment, and the third proposes, if the experiment be approved, to make some biscuit immediately, and forward to England samples by the packet.

As the Indian corn and barley now grinding has been purchased by the Commissariat, and only sent to the naval mills for the purpose of grinding and shipment, I do not feel myself authorised to make any experiments without their Lordships' sanction; and I am also unable to judge whether the Irish would prefer biscuit to meal.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 16, 1847.

Write to the Secretary of the Admiralty that my Lords concur in opinion with the Lords of the Admiralty, that the proposal of Sir Lucius Curtis to manufacture biscuit at Malta, by way of experiment, from Indian corn meal, or from a mixture of wheat, barley, and Indian corn, for the relief of the distressed Irish, is deserving of entire approval, and my Lords will be glad to receive some of the samples of the biscuit when they reach this country, with a memorandum of the cost thereof.

Transmit a copy of this letter, and of its enclosure, to Sir R. Routh, for his information, and acquaint him with the above direction.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 12, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, the copy of a letter from the Admiral-Superintendent at Malta, dated the 29th ultimo, relative to the capabilities of that establishment for grinding corn, &c.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR LUCIUS CURTIS to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Malta Dock-yard, January 28, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a further report from Mr. Miller upon the progress in erecting the machinery at the new bakery, and the drying and grinding the Indian corn.

Their Lordships will, however, perceive that with six pair of stones the mill is grinding at the rate of 110 quarters, or salms, in 11 hours, which is as much as the drying-kiln will admit, the produce in meal being 5560 lbs. per hour, or 61,160 in the 11 hours.

Mr. MILLER to Sir LUCIUS CURTIS.

Malta, January 28, 1847.

I HERE leave to make the following report to you upon the progress made with the machinery in the corn-mill and bakery, and the results obtained from the machines since we commenced kiln-drying the Indian corn, and grinding it into meal for the Commissariat department.

We commenced kiln-drying Indian corn with the new machinery on the afternoon of the 19th instant, having completed the drying and cooling machinery, together with the elevators, &c., to it. The quantity of Indian corn this machinery is capable of kiln-drying is 10 quarters the hour, which, at the average of 11 working hours the day, is 110 quarters the daily produce.

On the 21st instant, we began grinding the Indian corn into meal, with seven pairs of mill-stones at work, and the quantity we ground by them was at the rate of $11\frac{1}{2}$ quarters the hour; but as the supply of the kiln-drying machine is only at the rate of 10 quarters the hour, we have reduced the number of stones at work to six pairs, and this number is equal to the produce of the drying-machine; viz., 10 quarters the hour, and at the same length of day, the daily produce is 110 quarters; each quarter on the average weighs 560 lbs., therefore the daily produce is equal to 27½ tons in weight.

I consider we should not at present work longer hours than the above, until the Maltese become more acquainted with the machinery; and these hours allow of their being looked after properly by myself, and Marten, the mill-wright. When the Maltese become more accustomed to machinery, the mill and the other apparatus can be worked to the best advantage, by keeping it going night and day, stopping only at two intervals, to oil and look over the machinery in the morning and again at night.

We are producing what I consider to be meal of a very good quality, and of the proper degree of fineness, and also in a fair quantity, for the number of mill-stones at work.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 16, 1847.

Transmit copies of these papers to Sir R. Routh, for his information.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 13, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, an extract of a letter, dated the 10th instant, from Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, reporting the prevalence of dysentery in the locality of Crookhaven.

ENCLOSURE.

Admiral Sir H. PIGOT to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Cork, February 10, 1847.

THE "Zephyr" steam packet arrived at noon from Baltimore, and is now loading with rice for conveyance to Crookhaven. I request you will state to their Lordships that, in the absence of the agent, I have thought it right to dispatch both these vessels thus laden to that quarter, as in conversation with Commissary-General Bishop (this morning), who had recently returned from the westward, he informed me the people were suffering much from dysentery in that locality. I should here mention to their Lordships, that the sickness is not confined to the poor and destitute of Ireland, as the officers and crews of Her Majesty's ships have suffered from the disease.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 16, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter and of its enclosure to the Committee of the London Relief Association for their information.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. LOYD.

February 15, 1847.

I SEND herewith copies of correspondence received to-day from Colonel Jones, from which it appears that severe distress exists in the barony of Newcastle, within which the town of Wicklow is situated, and I would earnestly recommend to your Committee to order a small cargo of Indian corn meal across from Liverpool (where it is to be had in abundance) to Wicklow, to be sold to the Relief Committee, and I think you will be not going too far if you were to order another direct to Arklow, besides any portion of Mr. Foster's supplies which you may be able to transfer from Wexford to that place.

I am convinced that there is a much more urgent need of supplies in the mountainous and, with some exceptions, poor county of Wicklow, than in the rich plains of Wexford and Kilkenny.

We are ready to send officers to take charge of your cargoes, and to hold them at your disposal to answer any orders you may give upon them.

Mr. CARLSTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland

Committee Room, South Sea House,

February 15, 1847.

IN consequence of the many applications from distressed districts on the Upper Shannon, as well as others from the Lower Shannon, the Committee desire me to say that in such cases as may appear of sufficient urgency, they will gladly avail themselves of your kind offer to permit them to draw upon the Government depot at Limerick until they have established one there, or some other plan be mutually agreed upon. The Committee do not contemplate making any distribution, or effecting any sales of provisions, in Limerick at present.

Will you kindly give the necessary instructions to Sir Randolph Routh and Commissary-General Hewetson this post.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 15, 1847

THE London Committee find that they must either have a store of their own at Limerick, or have the power of drawing upon ours, and until it can be
[c. 2.] T

settled which of these arrangements is to be adopted, you are requested to answer their demands upon that depot to such moderate extent as may be required to supply their immediate wants, and may be consistent with the integrity of our store.

Pray give Mr. Hewetson his instructions on this subject by the next post, as I have not written to him direct.

And I shall be obliged to you to give me your advice, after due consideration, whether it would be advisable to undertake to supply the wants of the Committee in the neighbourhood of Limerick from our own stores, or to suggest to them to establish a depot of their own. If it were any other place than Limerick, I should not hesitate to recommend the latter course; but besides Mr. Russell's extensive operations, we are throwing very large supplies into Limerick, and it is possible that we may be able to meet every demand.

I have no bias, and am only anxious to see my way with your help to a safe conclusion.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

February 15, 1847.

You will see overleaf that the London Committee are anxious that we should take charge of their cargo at New Ross, to hold it at their disposal to meet any orders they may give upon it, the conveyance of the supplies into the interior being arranged by those in whose favour the orders are given, and at their expense.

In order to assist you, I have obtained from the Admiralty the services of an experienced captain's clerk, another Mr. Forster, who is highly spoken of, and it is stated that he might be useful in other ways besides the mere charge of the stores. He will proceed to Dublin to-morrow, and he and any other captains' clerks or pursers who may be employed are to have 15s. a-day besides their actual travelling expenses.

Have you written to Mr. Forster at Wexford to take on his supplies to Arklow?

I have sent the London Committee copies of a correspondence I have received from Colonel Jones, representing the existence of great distress at Ashford, close to Wicklow, and I have suggested that they should send a cargo direct from Liverpool to Wicklow, besides another to Arklow.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. CARLTON to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

*Committee Room, South Sea House,
4 o'clock, February 15, 1847.*

THE Committee having read your letter of this morning, have requested me to say that they will feel obliged by your requesting Sir Randolph Routh to be so good as to depute a person to take charge of the cargo sent by the Committee to New Ross for sale at cost price, or otherwise, as may hereafter be decided upon; a store must necessarily be hired for the purpose at New Ross. The Committee entertained the hope that Captain Stopford would exercise a vigilant eye over the provisions, and that a clerk employed under him to superintend the sales and keep the accounts, could be employed, for which expense the Committee would be responsible.

If this arrangement can be carried out, the Committee will feel obliged.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

February 15, 1847.

You may at once adopt Mr. Forster, "of Wexford," into our service, leaving him in charge of his cargoes, which we are to hold to the order of the Committee, according to the established rule. In other words, we are to act as storekeepers to the Committee wherever we are asked to do so, providing and paying for the agency, store-room, &c., and holding the Committee's meal at their disposal to answer any orders they may give upon it. The "Wicklow," to which "small vessels" are stated, in the accompanying papers, to be sent, is, I imagine, Arklow, but the Committee will, no doubt, shortly send one or more cargoes to Wicklow also.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 16, 1847.

IN continuation of the subject of the assistance which the British Association wish to have from the Limerick depôt, it occurs to me that a certain *maximum* quantity might be fixed for which they might have a credit given them upon the depôt, and the actual issues might be charged to them at our current prices in the monthly statement furnished by you of the sums owing to the department by the Association.

I have reason to believe that the aggregate of the orders which the Association would wish to make upon the Limerick depôt, would not exceed what we could safely undertake to answer. A credit of 100 tons a-month would, I understand, be sufficient.

This arrangement would apply only to the principal depot at Limerick and Tarbert, and it is fully understood that we cannot give similar accommodation at any of the sub-depôts under the Limerick depôt, or at any other depôts.

Elsewhere, we will take charge of cargoes of provisions sent by the Committee, but we cannot ourselves furnish the provisions.

Sir JOHN BURGEOYNE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Relief Commission Office,

Castle, Dublin, February 14, 1847.

I SHALL be very anxious to get copies of the *Act*, but even some of the *Bill*, as it leaves the Commons, would be most useful, to enable me to send them out where we have inquiries to make; and I have just explained to Mr. Mulvany how very numerous they will be.

I at first thought that our Government Inspectors might be limited to one for each Union (of which there are 130 in Ireland), but it seems probable that there must be two at least in some districts most oppressed; and that, perhaps, 60 will require two, and 70, one. That would be 190, if all come under the law. We must, however, necessarily begin with much fewer, and by commencing at once with some of the best, who have been transferred to the Commissioners by Sir R. Routh and Col. Jones, we shall feel our way.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir JOHN BURGEOYNE.

Treasury, February 16, 1847.

I HAVE sent you 20 more copies of the *Bill*, as it was brought up to the House of Lords, which was all the Queen's printer had; and you shall have 30 more as soon as they can be got ready.

I have also sent you a few more copies of the Instructions.

If you want more copies of either document, they shall be immediately sent.

As soon as the *Bill* passes I will send you 300 copies of it, and more, if required.

The course hitherto pursued in reference to the Commissariat inspectorships, and other temporary appointments in Ireland which have been made from the Treasury, has been to register every application as it was received, with the testimonials or other documents connected with it; and when one or more appointments were required to be made, the list has been sent to the Admiralty or Horse Guards, as the case might be, who have been requested to select a few of the best officers whose names appeared in it, and to place their names in the order in which they were supposed to be best qualified for this service. The appointments have thus been made without any reference to political considerations, or to any other motive, except the requirements of the trying service for which the officers were destined; and the only preference that has been shown, has been, that among candidates possessed of equal qualifications, Irishmen have been selected.

The inspectorships, and other temporary appointments under the Board of Works, have been made on the same principle by Colonel Jones.

Under the new *Act*, the Inspectors will be appointed by, and on the responsibility of the Commission; and it is open to you to appoint any of the persons

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residing in Ireland who have been recommended to you, whether they are officers of the army or navy, or not; although I am sure you will agree with me, that Her Majesty's Commission gives weight and authority, and is, to a certain extent, a test of character and qualification.

If we have anything to do with the matter in future, it will be merely to assist you, if you should so desire it, by placing at your disposal the best of the naval and military officers who have recently applied in great numbers; and in anticipation of your requiring a further number, I have taken the usual steps to obtain the best selection that can be made.

The only other point on which I may possibly be able to assist you, is by sending you a gentleman well qualified to assist your Secretary in preparing drafts of reports and letters, from verbal or written directions furnished by you. I know from experience how much the efficiency of a public department depends upon its being strong on this point; and although I am not sure that I should be able to obtain the services of a person whom I could thoroughly recommend (I certainly should send no other), I mention what has occurred to me, for the chance of its being of use.

Since writing the above, I have received from Captain Hamilton, the Secretary to the Admiralty, the accompanying list of 22 naval officers, and I think you may at once, with safety and advantage, take all those (10 in number) whom I have marked with a cross, as being reported to be "very good" or "excellent."

I send such testimonials as I have belonging to any of the 22 officers, and it is possible that you may be able to satisfy yourself that some of those who are only marked "good" are fit for the service.

Pray return me the list and the testimonials, with your decision.

There is an Indian officer, a Colonel Taylor, an Irishman, who was military secretary to Lord William Bentinck when he was Governor-General; and I am so convinced of the superior qualifications possessed by him for this service, that if he will consent to act as one of your Inspectors, I shall not hesitate to send him to you.

MR. TREVELYAN to the EARL OF AUCKLAND.

February 12, 1847.

In order to save time, which, while our countrymen are dying daily by hundreds in Ireland of cold and starvation, is of more value than I ever before felt it to be, will you permit me to correspond directly with Mr. Grant, Storekeeper of the Royal Clarence Yard, on points of detail, such as those touched upon in the accompanying letter, which I have received this morning from that gentleman.

If your Lordship should approve of my doing so, I will send you copies of all my letters, in order that you may at once interpose, in case you should not concur in anything I write to Mr. Grant.

I propose, with your Lordship's approval, to request Mr. Grant to manufacture soup, and send it in barrels to Ireland, as suggested by him; and if the plan is found to answer, it may then be extended to other yards, besides possibly being taken up in other quarters.

Captain HAMILTON to MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 12, 1847.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of this day's date, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that they have no objection to your corresponding directly with Mr. Grant, the naval Storekeeper of the Royal Clarence Yard, on matters of detail connected with the operations for the relief of the distressed Irish and Scotch; but my Lords request to be furnished with copies of the letters addressed to Mr. Grant, when they contain instructions with which they ought to be acquainted.

Mr. Grant's letter is herewith returned.

Mr. GRANT to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Clarence Yard, Gosport,
February 11, 1847.*

I HAVE read with much interest the great exertions that have been made, and are now making, by the Government, to meet, as far as possible, the existing distress in Ireland.

On my return to Gosport, I have made it my business to ascertain how far it may be possible to obtain grain, applicable for relief purposes, in sufficient quantities to keep the flour-mills and bakery here in constant operation. I find that grain of all kinds can be procured, considerably exceeding in quantity what is required for these manufactories. A party, tendering for biscuit meal to-day, offered to deliver, within a month, 6000 quarters of grain, consisting of barley, wheat, peas, beans, oats, and also 2500 sacks of meal; or earlier, if necessary.

If thought desirable, a large quantity of meal of all kinds may be obtained within a circuit of 20 miles of this spot. This part of Hampshire is prolific in mill-power.

On the subject of establishing soup-kitchens in Ireland, would it not be desirable to adopt a modification of "Papin's Digester" for preparing soup, instead of the common soup copper; they may be made nearly, if not quite as cheap; if properly constructed, they will dissolve bones, and thus are very economical.

I have sent you a sample of soup made in one of these "Digesters" from the heels and head of the ox; I will send you a larger sample, for transmission to Ireland, if you wish it.

It is a matter worthy of consideration, whether it would not be advantageous to establish a soup manufactory of this description at each of the victualling establishments; such parts of the offal, viz, the head, heels, tail, and heart, I have reason to think may be purchased by contract from our own slaughter-houses, at the rate of 1½d. per lb., and the concentrated soup may be forwarded to Ireland in tight casks; the air being excluded, it will keep a considerable time. A pint of soup, when diluted, together with a mixed bean, pea, and wheaten meal biscuit soaked in it, make a nutritious meal, and at a cost not exceeding 1½d.

We commenced manufacturing whole wheaten biscuit, and mixed pea, bean, and whole wheaten biscuit this morning, for the relief service in Ireland, samples of which I also send you. When the manufactory is in full operation, night and day, a statement shall be sent you of the quantity the bakehouse is capable of manufacturing.

I should not have troubled you on these points, had I not been aware of the unceasing efforts you are making to alleviate the existing distress.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. GRANT.

February 13, 1847.

BEFORE answering your letter of the 11th instant, I thought it right to ascertain how far my carrying on a direct correspondence with you might be approved at the Admiralty, and you will see from the copies of correspondence sent herewith that there is no difficulty on that score.

I am glad to find from your letter that the neighbourhood of Portsmouth offers such considerable resources in grain, peas, and beans. I have requested Mr. Erichsen to call on Mr. Meek to ascertain when the tenders will be received in reply to the advertisement which has been issued, and at the proper time we will compare the prices offered with those which we are paying in London.

You also state that large quantities of meal of all kinds are to be obtained within a circuit of 20 miles from Portsmouth, if thought desirable.

We rely upon you, and upon those under whom you act, to obtain, either in grain or meal, all the stuff which may be required to keep the bakeries fully at work, and to do this under such arrangements as will leave the Admiralty mills free for grinding meal to be sent to Ireland in that shape.

My impression is, that vessels for preparing soup in Ireland will be required in such large numbers that only boilers of the simplest and cheapest kind will,

as a general rule, answer the purpose; but if you think it worth while to try the experiment of obtaining a cheap modification of Papin's Digester, or any other similar article, we will be answerable for the expense.

The plan suggested by you of boiling down, in the victualling yards, the heads, heels, tails, and hearts of sheep and cattle, and sending the jelly obtained from them, packed in tight casks, to help out the soup, appears to be well worth a trial, and we shall be obliged to you to make enough to give the experiment a fair trial, and to send it to Ireland by the first opportunity, consigning it to Sir R. Routh, or to his order.

MT. GRANT TO MT. TREVELYAN.

Clarence Yard, Gosport,
February 16, 1847.

PREVIOUS to our incurring expense in obtaining a sufficiently powerful "digester," for the purposes mentioned in my letter of the 11th instant, I have considered it advisable to send a small keg, containing a sample of the concentrated soup, made in the small "digester," to Sir R. Routh, for the purpose of ascertaining whether he may consider it applicable for "relief purposes." If his report is favourable, a proper apparatus on a large scale may be obtained.

In the mean time, I propose boiling down, in a common boiler, the heads, heels, tails, &c., of the oxen slaughtered in this establishment, for the purpose of ascertaining at what cost a concentrated soup may thus be obtained.

If it can be procured at a cheap rate, its portability will be a great advantage.

I am happy to say we have got our (comparatively small) bakery in full operation, working day and night. We manufacture for the "relief service" 1300 bags of biscuit, at 112 lbs. each, per week, which is equal to the supply of 1 lb. of biscuit to upwards of 25,000 persons daily.

The mill produces on the average 750 sacks of barley-meal per week.

The chief difficulty now is to get rid of this quantity.

It has been submitted that freight may be hired for the purpose; at the present time it may be obtained at Portsmouth on the following terms:—

To Youghal . . .	} 14s. per ton.
Cork . . .	
Waterford . . .	
Dungarvon . . .	
Limerick . . .	

—to the north of Ireland 16s. per ton.

It is intended to contract for biscuit meal, and for barley (500 quarters), for the purpose of ascertaining at what cost it may be obtained in this neighbourhood, on Thursday next.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 16, 1847.

MY LORDS have before them the following communications from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, forwarding copies of correspondence with the Irish Government and the Poor Law Commissioner resident in Ireland, relating to several points on which applications have been made by the Irish Poor Law Unions for assistance to enable them to meet the pressure arising from the present distress.

January 23, 1847.—Relative to the prevailing distress, the levying of poor rates, the supply of clothing, and increased workhouse accommodation.

February 10.—Enlargement of workhouses, or hire or purchase of other buildings.

February 13.—Supply of bedding and clothing for the workhouses.

And also a letter from Mr. Redington, forwarding copy of one from the Poor Law Commissioners on the subject of providing funds for erecting a fever ward in the Mallow Union workhouse.

The propositions contained in this correspondence are—

1. That in cases of urgent necessity, supplies of food should be furnished by the Government for the maintenance of the inmates of the workhouses.

2. That in similar cases, supplies of bedding and clothing should be furnished for the use of the inmates.

3. That sums of money should be advanced on loan to the guardians, to enable them to hire or construct increased workhouse accommodation.

4. That loans should be made to guardians for the purpose of constructing fever wards.

On the first point Sir R. Routh has been already directed to assist as far as he is able, in providing supplies of food in those extreme cases in which the Lord Lieutenant may deem it necessary that such assistance should be given; and he will charge the cost of the supplies so furnished by him, including the expense of conveyance, to the Boards of Guardians, in order to the amount being repaid out of the first produce of the rates.

Secondly.—It appears that the Lord Lieutenant has authorised the respective officers of Ordnance at Dublin to supply the articles of bedding required; but it is stated that “as the clothing cannot all be provided by that department, His Excellency considers that it will be more expedient that the Boards of Guardians should make an order for the supply of these articles nominally by the Commissioners. The Government will then pay the contractor who may furnish them, and the Union will remain indebted to them for the cost. The bills will be paid when submitted by the Poor Law Commissioners.”

It appears from inquiries which their Lordships have made from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and the Master General and Board of Ordnance, that large supplies of clothing, independently of those which were known to the Ordnance officers at Dublin, can be procured from the Government stores in different parts of the united kingdom; and directions have been given for these additional supplies to be collected, without delay, at London, Bristol, and Liverpool, and to be sent to Dublin, consigned to Sir R. Routh; and the available clothing at the different military stations in Ireland will be placed at the disposal of that officer by the Ordnance officers at Dublin.

The stores of clothing so brought together at Dublin will be forwarded, under Sir R. Routh's superintendence, to the different Union workhouses, in such proportions as the resident Poor Law Commissioner may point out; and if further supplies are required, their Lordships will give immediate directions for their being procured and forwarded.

Their Lordships do not propose to make any charge upon the Unions, either for the bedding and clothing furnished to them, or for the cost of its conveyance.

Thirdly and Fourthly.—Their Lordships are prepared to authorise applications being made to the Public Works Loan Commission in London for the construction of additional accommodation, either permanent or temporary, or for providing fever wards in those cases in which it may appear proper that such assistance should be given; but they are of opinion that every such application should be considered on its own merits, and should be forwarded to this Board by the resident Poor Law Commissioner, with a special report explanatory of the circumstances of the case, in which it should be particularly stated whether the current expenses of the workhouse are provided for in the ordinary manner out of the rates, or the inmates are already either wholly or partly maintained by supplies procured from the Commissariat, or are likely soon to be dependant on that resource.

Transmit a copy of this minute to Sir William Somerville, for Sir George Grey's information.

Also transmit a copy to Sir R. Routh, for his information and guidance.

And to Mr. Redington, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

SECRETARY of the ORDNANCE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, February 15, 1847.

I HAVE the honour, by command of the Board of Ordnance, to forward herewith a copy of a memorandum, and of a list marked A, showing the number of blankets and rugs condemned at the stations in Great Britain; and I

am to observe that these documents will explain the measures adopted by the Board, in consequence of the wishes expressed verbally on the occasion of Mr. Midford's recent interviews with you.

I beg to add that a further list will hereafter be sent to you of the bedding and other articles condemned in Great Britain and Ireland, and placed at the disposal of Sir R. Routh under the orders now given.

ENCLOSURE.

[Memorandum.]

February 13, 1847.

THE several barrack-masters in Great Britain to be directed to hold surveys on the linen, bedding, and hospital dresses in their charge considered unserviceable.

The articles condemned (as well as the blankets and rugs already condemned as shown in the accompanying list A), to be immediately made up in a whole state into square packages, to be enclosed in wrappers, pallizases or sheets, to be tied securely, and a card affixed to each package, and the weight and address marked thereon.

The packages to be likewise numbered; a list of the contents of each to be enclosed therein, and a similar list to be forwarded by post to the party to whom they are addressed, and to the Board.

They are to be then forwarded by the quickest conveyance, and addressed as follows:—

For London, to R. Perrett, Esq., Tower.

For Dublin, to Ordnance Storekeeper.

For Cork, to The Barrack Master.

For Wexford, to The Barrack Master.

The minutes of survey to be forwarded to the Board.

The Barrack Masters to hire such military or civil labourers as may be necessary to give immediate effect to these orders, and to report the expense incurred.

Mr. Perrett to be directed to forward to Dublin, addressed to the Ordnance Storekeeper, all the packages which may be sent to London, with copies of the lists of their contents, apprising him that they are to be placed at the disposal of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh.

Mr. Perrett to be further instructed to place himself in communication with Messrs. Erichsen, of 110, Fenchurch-street, who will receive directions from the Treasury, to forward the bedding as it arrives in London, to Dublin, by a Government steamer, when one is about to proceed there, and if no Government steamer is likely soon to start, Mr. Perrett will dispatch the bedding to Dublin by any private steamer leaving the river for that place.

Similar communications to be made to the Barrack Masters at Cork and Waterford, also to the storekeeper at Dublin, with regard to the packages sent to him direct from the stations in England.

The articles condemned at the stations in Scotland to remain there until orders shall be received from the Treasury with regard to their disposal.

The respective officers in Dublin to be apprised of the orders given to the Barrack Masters in Great Britain, for holding surveys on unserviceable bedding, &c., and authorising them to give similar instructions to the several barrack-masters in Ireland (if they have not already done so under the order of the 20th ultimo, &c.), and to place the several articles condemned at the disposal of Sir R. Routh. No officer on the part of the Surveyor-General need attend these surveys. Also to direct the Barrack Masters to forward to the Board the minutes of survey, a duplicate being sent to the respective officers, who will inform Sir R. Routh of the number of articles disposable at each station.

Mr. Trevelyan to be furnished with a copy of this Memorandum, and of the list marked A, of the blankets and rugs condemned at the stations in Great Britain, observing that these documents will explain the measures adopted by the Board, in consequence of the wishes expressed verbally at his recent interviews with Mr. Midford, and stating that a further list shall be hereafter sent to him of the bedding and other articles condemned in Great Britain and Ireland, and placed at the disposal of Sir R. Routh under the orders now given.

(Signed) ROBERT MIDFORD, Ordnance Officer.

Approved,

(Signed), { C. R. FOX.
G. ANSON.
THOMAS HASTINGS.

ENCLOSURE (A.)

Ordnance Office, February 15, 1847.

RETURN of UNSERVICEABLE BLANKETS and REGS economised at several Barracks in Great Britain.

Station.	Blankets.	Regs.	Where to be Sent.
Aberdeen	488	150	
Beech	32	34	Cork.
Barnley	65	44	Dublin.
Brighton	244	128	London.
Chatham	712	509	Ditto.
Cowes	95	31	Dublin.
Carmarthen	78	29	Waterford.
Carlisle	92	106	Dublin.
Chester	756	548	Ditto.
Despatch	280	123	Ditto.
Dorchester	260	96	Ditto.
Dundee	16	111	
Edinburgh	300	200	
Glasgow	306	303	London.
Glasgow	38	101	
Harwich	83	40	London.
Hull	57	105	Ditto.
Hounslow	717	277	Ditto.
Ipswich	84	85	Ditto.
Leeds	40	109	Dublin.
Isle of Man	45	24	Ditto.
Maidstone	160	326	London.
Newcastle	400	200	Ditto.
Nottingham	245	182	Dublin.
Norwich	47	95	London.
Newport, Monmouthshire	11	200	Cork.
Parkhurst, Isle of Wight	54	265	London.
Prinsborough	281	252	Dublin.
Paisley	149	151	
Potterton and Tipner	338	465	London.
Purfleet	28	32	Ditto.
Pendennis	14	48	Dublin.
Preston	230	281	Ditto.
Regent's Park	442	282	Tower.
Sheffield	26	54	Dublin.
Sterling	17	27	
Stockport	230	233	Dublin.
Sturges	67	68	London.
Tower	3	62	Tower.
Wellington Barracks	254	158	Ditto.
Windsor	381	280	London.
Winchester	46	92	Ditto.
Wotton	647	799	Dublin.
Woolwich	..	173	London.
York	154	..	Dublin.
Total	8,887	7,826	

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 16, 1847.

Transmit copies of this letter and enclosures to Sir R. Routh, with reference to the separate communication to him of this day's date.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 13, 1847.

I HAVE your letter of the 11th about seed, and I think you may safely extend your purchases of turnip seed to the extent, between that and mangel wurzel, of at least enough for 50,000 acres.

As for beet root, I do not think the people are prepared for it, though in itself an admirable thing and very much to be encouraged; therefore any quantity you propose to buy should not be large.

The small quantity of carrot seed would be desirable, but I do not venture

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to offer any opinion about cabbage, except that I believe your information is correct.

Peas and beans have seldom been sown by the Irish farmers, and will only be attempted by the better class.

Therefore if you make any such purchase it should not be large.

I observe by the subsequent paragraph that you have ordered a quantity of white beet root seed to be purchased in France. It is certainly an opportunity for introducing it into cultivation, and is a desirable object to effect; my only doubt was the character of the people, and their disinclination to anything new.

I will make inquiries about onion seed.

I showed the letter to the Lord Lieutenant, and he seems to think it objectionable to intrust any seedsman with the custody and sale of these seeds, as they are in the habit of adulterating them, and he says that they would not undertake it.

He prefers that they should be put in the Dublin dépôt, and issued from thence on his order, and he will take care of the bond and security before he grants the order on me.

I have been considering your question about clothing, and the quantity that you think is now in preparation under the care of the ladies in England, and your opinion that the distribution should be made by the ladies in Ireland.

I think it would be a very popular measure here, and encourage many contributions in this article, and these unfortunate Irish are nearly naked.

It is in intention to appoint the Inspecting Officers at once to their respective Unions. I think, with those advised by you, my numbers are 28, and Colonel Jones gives 12, and there are at least 120 Unions to be supplied within a short period!

Mr. Knowles has sent me a small barrel of yams, which I propose to try, and see if they will succeed in this country, though I fear they will all be spoiled for seed by the frost.

Reverting to the question of the extra 4000 tons of rye, it has occurred to me that it would be very desirable to purchase 1000 tons of the unground rye for seed to be sown in September, which will ensure a return on the 1st of June following, or somewhat earlier, if the weather is fine. This would establish the regular sowing of this grain for many subsequent years. I am sure this is a very safe and just precaution.

I find on inquiry they grow a good deal of onions in the county of Carlow and elsewhere; therefore it is a desirable purchase.

The subscription list which I sent to you from Skibbereen of 1811*l* is not, I find, from a regular Committee, nor have they been acting on the Government regulations; therefore they are not entitled to a grant, and I need not have troubled you on the occasion. The regularly constituted Committee have sent in their subscription list this day, collected from the proprietors on the spot, amounting to 476*l*, on which they have received a grant.

I annex a report from Mr. Adams, on the barony of Erris and of Belmullet.

I also annex a copy of a letter from the Dean of Archoury, which shows what can be done with a small fund (only 30*l*) by acting on right principles. It is satisfactory to observe this gradual admission of the correctness of our regulations.

I hope what I have said about peas and beans will not induce you to give up the intention of including them in your purchases. Something explanatory might be put forth on the subject, as they are so excellent, particularly for soup, when they are green, as well as when they are dry.

I still continue all the correspondence and other duties of the Commission, until the Act shall have passed, and the Commissioners in the mean while meet every day to canvas their plans.

ENCLOSURES.

Assistant Commissary-General ADAMS to Sir R. BOUTH.

Ballina, County Mayo, February 9, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following information in regard to the barony of Erris, with reference to your instructions, C. 1260, Belmullet.

The stores at present in possession of this department are capable of containing, the one in the upper part of the town 1300 sacks, and that in the lower part, but not very distant from the other, 1300 to 2500 sacks, or about 310 to 320 tons.

It is to be regretted, that in hiring these stores the whole of the ground flats could not have been procured, not only for the additional space which would have been acquired, but also in point of safety from fire.

Another store near the upper one might be obtained for about 30% per annum, and put in repair, which would hold about 150 tons.

The remains in the depôt on the 6th instant were 1288 sacks of meal, which at the rate of issue between the 1st and 4th of the month, 184 sacks, would not meet the probable demand beyond the end of February. It is, therefore, desirable that a further supply of meal should be sent to this depôt without delay.

The peas in store, 427 quarters, are only at present required for soup-kitchens. There are no mills in the neighbourhood, excepting a small one near Bangor, which may be said to be useless and unavailable.

Indian meal sold from the depôt at 19% per ton, to small traders in the town (who will not take the peas), under a guarantee to the Relief Committee that it shall be retailed at a price not exceeding 2s. 6d. per stone, had created some little competition among them, so desirable to be established, and they had reduced the price to 2s. 5½d. Sales were also made to parties who could collect sufficient money to buy a sack, which is the least quantity that should be disposed of from the depôt.

There are only two traders in the town who, it appears, can import on their own account, and I understand that they do not wish to do so until a reduction in prices takes place in the Liverpool market, which, I fear, indicates their contingent intention of relying upon the supplies they obtain from our stores, and thus rendering the demand upon them uncertain.

A sale of 340 barrels of flour partially damaged, saved from a wreck, met with a ready sale on the 6th instant, at 11s. 6s. to 22s. 6d. per barrel. There are no other supplies to any extent in the market at present.

Sub-depôts, should it be deemed necessary to establish them:—

The police barrack at Glenamoy, situated on the road between Ballycastle, in the barony of Tirawley, and Belmullet, 12 Irish miles from the former and 13 from the latter, could afford store room for about 10 tons. There are five men stationed in it.

Bangor, 10 miles from Belmullet, on the main road to Crossmolina: the police barrack at this point is well situated for the purpose, and could afford a store-room 21 x 17; it could also give a room for a soup-kitchen, but it would have to be managed by the police, and could only occasionally be visited by one of the Committee from Belmullet. There are five men of the constabulary, and 15 of the revenue police (in a separate barrack) at this place, where there is a small tavern.

Corry, a police post of five men, six miles from Bangor, on the same main road, could also, if necessary, afford a store-room 18 x 15. There is also a small tavern and a shooting lodge at this point, on the river Corry.

Along the two main lines of road between Ballycastle and Belmullet, and the latter to Crossmolina, the country is miserably barren; there are no gentry or respectable residents, but there is a considerable population dispersed here and there, under the mountains and on spots of land of the least cultivation.

Soup-kitchens.—At Belmullet there are two in operation; one in the town and one at about a mile distant, at Pickle Point, affording gratuitous relief daily (excepting on Fridays) to about 960 individuals of families in a state of extreme destitution.

There is also, I understand, one in operation at Innamane, near Bingham's Town, near Kilmoe, supported by funds obtained by the Rev. Mr. Dawson. And it is proposed to establish others when means can be obtained for their support, and application had been made to you for boilers.

I am, however, of opinion, that it will soon become difficult to procure, in many places, meat for the purpose of making soup; and that it will be necessary to substitute porridge or stir-about.

I did not meet the members in Committee, but I saw all those who were in town. The Chairman had returned to Bingham Castle, but I did not see him.

The only respectable person who appears to be desirable to add to the Committee is the Rev. John Green (Curate to the Rector, Mr. Clock), who takes an active interest in the establishment and management of the soup-kitchens with the Rector, and to act as Sub-committee, Messrs. Hamilton, Campbell, McCarney, Samuel Burns, and James O'Donel, and the several officers in charge of subordinate coast-guard stations.

The measures at present before Parliament are everywhere most anxiously looked for, and will, I trust, establish more regularity, and a better understanding of the duties of the Relief Committees.

It would be very desirable that some steps should be immediately taken to solicit the charitable societies to adopt some one general means of publicly making known the locality, amount, and purpose of the numerous donations made, or food or clothes supplied for the relief of destitution in this country.

I was much gratified to learn from the Superintendent of the Government Establishment for the encouragement of fisheries, which had been in operation only a few days at Belmullet, that it had been successful beyond expectation, and that he considered there was every prospect of perseverance on the part of the fishermen. There was an abundant supply of very fine fish in the market, selling at very reasonable prices.

There is a company of the 49th regiment at Belmullet, besides the constabulary and coast-guard.

I will report on the bounty of Tirawley as soon as possible. In the mean time the letter of Mr. Vesles to Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, of the 3rd instant, which you will have received, will afford information that satisfactory progress is making in establishing soup-kitchens.

THE DEAN OF ARCHONRY to Mr. W. STANLEY.

The Deanery, Ballyvaughan, February 11, 1847.

I HAVE the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 8th instant, and I beg you will convey to Sir Randolph Rough my thanks for the recommendation he has made to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to grant 70*l.* for the Upper Leyney Relief Committee (County Sligo).

I beg to take this opportunity of bearing my testimony to the justice of the views taken by the Commissary-General in reference to the mode of providing food at the present emergency.

I have had opportunities of witnessing the results of the different systems.

In one instance, I knew of 50*l.* having been expended in selling meal at a loss, below cost price, and no sooner was the fund exhausted than the retail dealers, who had been obliged in some instances to give up selling, recommenced at unusually high prices, to make up for lost time; and in some cases, the meal, thus sold, had been obtained at the cheap depot while it continued open. Thus the poor were left in a worse case than if there had been no interference.

In another case, no sooner did the retail dealers come down to the price at which the Relief Committee were selling, in accordance with the Government instructions, at a remunerative price, than it was, unfortunately, considered useless to continue selling at same price with private speculators, and the depot was closed, and prices rose accordingly.

In my own case, although I had doubts, at first, as to the expediency of the plan, I have seen the beneficial results of acting in accordance with the regulations of the Commissary-General. I have sold, at the house of a servant on my land, meal to the amount of 200*l.* (besides rice, cheese, and other provisions), and this has not cost me a shilling (except the inconvenience of keeping about 30*l.* about). By adding 1*l.* per ton to the price paid at the mills (at a distance of 10 miles), I have covered all expenses, and provided for a poor man (with a family of 12), and for the person who weighs and sells the meal (with 8 in family), wages to the amount of 4*l.* each within ten weeks.

The advantage to the neighbourhood has been very great. For a mile in every direction around me, the private dealers sell at a reasonable profit.

If I had sold at a loss (supposing I could have afforded it), I should have stopped the private dealers, and thereby have limited the supply in the country; and if I had not sold at all, prices would have been higher in the neighbourhood, as they are in other parts of the district.

I consider these facts conclusive on the subject now so much discussed.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 16, 1847.

WE have considered your proposal to purchase 1,000 tons of unground rye for seed, to be sown in September, and the result is as follows:—

The Russian rye, which is exported for food, is not fit for seed, being all kiln-dried before it is sent to the coast.

Smaller quantities are reserved there, and in Holland and Germany, for seed, but these are not now to be procured to any extent. They must be collected immediately after the harvest, and then they can be got in England as well as abroad. No time therefore would be saved by entering the markets at present, and if it should be necessary to do anything more in this way, it had better be done in July and August, when the next harvest is reaped.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 16, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Weekly Return of the Commissariat Depôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations and of the sums subscribed up to the 13th instant.

RECAPITULATION OF REMAINS ON the 13th February, 1847.

15,356 quarters of Indian corn, at 5 quarters per ton, are equal to	3,071½ tons.
561 quarters of peas, at 5 quarters per ton, are equal to	112½ "
30,592 sacks of Indian corn meal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to	3,812½ "
1,341 sacks of wheaten meal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to	167½ "
12,489 sacks of barley meal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to	1,561½ "
1,213 sacks of oatmeal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to	151½ "
3,630 bags of biscuit, at 20 sacks per ton, are equal to	181½ "

Total Remains . . . 9,068½ tons.

Issued during the Week.

127 quarters of Indian corn are equal to	25½ tons.
2 quarters of peas are equal to	½ "
3,755 sacks of Indian meal are equal to	469½ "
161 sacks of wheaten meal are equal to	20½ "
328 bags of biscuit are equal to	16½ "

Total Issues . . . 532½ tons.

R. J. ROUTH, *Commissary-General.*

Dublin Castle, February 16, 1847.

ACCOUNT OF DONATIONS authorized to be issued by the LORD LIEUTENANT in aid of SUBSCRIPTIONS raised by Relief Committees in Ireland, during the week ending the 13th February, 1847.

Date.	Name and Locality of Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
1847		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Feb. 8.	Glenties district, county Kilkenny	216	0	0	216	17	6½
"	Freshford district, county Kilkenny	20	0	0	14	17	10
"	Mullinavat district, county Kilkenny	27	0	0	27	0	0
"	Kingstown district, county Dublin	699	0	0	699	0	0
"	Casletown district, county Meath	117	0	0	117	0	0
"	Mountmellick district, Queen's County	377	0	0	377	0	0
"	St. Mullin's district, county Carlow	70	0	0	82	0	0
"	Roscrea district, county Tipperary	193	0	0	193	19	6
"	Cappoquin district, county Waterford	264	0	0	264	7	6
"	Lahra and Durka District, county Tipperary	143	0	0	143	8	6
"	Glimmer, &c., district, county Cork	233	0	0	233	6	0
"	Ballylongford district, county Kerry	86	0	0	86	0	0
"	Kilrush district, county Clare	133	0	0	133	10	0
"	Rennish district, county Donegal	482	0	0	482	2	6
Feb. 9.	Upper Lurgan District, county Sligo	70	0	0	50	0	0
"	Dromacree district, county Westmeath	91	0	0	91	5	0
"	Mellor Tullyallen district, county Louth	218	0	0	218	0	0
"	Kildarnaherdan district, county Cavan	94	0	0	94	12	6
"	Ballyninch district, county Down	202	0	0	202	17	0
"	Finglas district, county Dublin	104	0	0	104	16	6
"	Upper Phobstown district, King's County	111	0	0	111	15	0
"	Oldcastle district, county Meath	165	0	0	165	5	6
"	Ballyknayler district, Queen's County	680	0	0	680	10	0
"	Kili district, county Kildare	58	0	0	58	0	0
"	Slieveroe district, county Kilkenny	128	0	0	128	5	0
"	Tyrrelstown district, county Westmeath	51	0	0	51	0	0
"	Gorey district, county Wexford	65	0	0	65	0	0
"	Johnstown district, county Meath	241	0	0	241	9	6
"	Ballyfinan district, Queen's County	94	0	0	94	17	0
"	Dunboyne district, county Meath	164	0	0	164	19	10
"	Mascroes, &c., district, county Cork	140	0	0	128	8	0
"	Whitechurch district, county Waterford	145	0	0	155	15	0
"	Waterford City district, county Waterford	575	0	0	575	2	0
"	Fernsey district, county Cork	500	0	0	458	11	9
"	Elkagh, &c., district, county Roscommon	28	0	0	28	0	0
"	Kilcockery, &c., district, county Roscommon	145	0	0	145	3	0
"	Clochar district, county Galway	150	0	0	132	1	1½
"	Ballinrobe district, county Mayo	100	0	0	77	10	0
Feb. 10.	Forkhill district, county Armagh	80	0	0	20	0	0
"	Nobber district, county Meath	122	0	0	122	14	6
"	St. Mary, Dennybrook, district, county Dublin	416	0	0	416	8	2
"	Rush district, county Dublin	112	0	0	112	5	0
"	Clonsilla district, county Carlow	65	0	0	65	0	0
"	Berragh district, county Carlow	65	0	0	49	0	0
"	Bensow district, county Wexford	291	0	0	291	17	8½
"	Ballyhay district, county Cork	138	0	0	138	2	6
"	Ernly district, county Tipperary	180	0	0	120	0	0

ACCOUNT OF DONATIONS—continued.

Date.	Name and Locality of Committee.	Donation.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1847.							
Feb. 10	Kilbeline district, county Cork	140	0	0	127	16	6
"	Imishamman district, county Cork	30	0	0	26	10	0
"	Nenagh district, county Tipperary	426	0	0	426	16	6
"	Cork City district, county Cork	1,900	0	0	1,902	2	0
"	Enniskerry district, county Sligo	50	0	0	45	0	0
"	Carrig district, county Tyrone	332	0	0	332	0	5
"	Roslea district, county Fermanagh	88	0	0	88	0	0
"	Dromard district, county Sligo	40	0	0	21	0	0
"	Ballindrait district, county Donegal	157	0	0	157	13	4
"	Bondorough district, county Mayo	80	0	0	56	0	0
"	Carrigulla district, county Leitrim	85	0	0	66	15	0
Feb. 11 .	Maryborough district, Queen's County	35	0	0	36	0	0
"	Mullingar district, county Westmeath	67	0	0	67	7	0
"	Edenderry district, King's County	998	0	0	393	18	6
"	Leath district, county Louth	969	0	0	369	11	2½
"	Armagh district, county Armagh	999	0	0	999	8	5
"	Maghera district, county Londonderry	87	0	0	87	12	0
"	Drumree district, county Armagh	229	0	0	229	8	0
"	Ballinacree district, county Cork	100	0	0	100	7	6
"	Owley district, county Down	86	0	0	86	16	3
"	Bayes district, county Carlow	185	0	0	185	0	0
"	Abadeg district, county Down	215	0	0	215	14	6
"	Wilkinson district, county Meath	182	0	0	182	0	0
"	Carletonville district, county Meath	151	0	0	151	10	0
"	Castletown district, county Cork	50	0	0	27	0	0
"	Currykippure district, county Cork	21	0	0	21	0	0
"	Kilkenning district, county Cork	85	0	0	85	5	7
"	Thurles district, county Tipperary	420	0	0	400	10	8
"	Killalea district, county Cork	104	0	0	104	8	0
"	Sandhally district, county Waterford	41	0	0	41	0	0
"	Ballynagap district, county Kerry	100	0	0	198	7	4
"	And 6 tons Indian corn meal, equal to	108	0	0			
"	Carrig district, county Sligo	100	0	0	100	0	0
"	Grough district, county Londonderry	111	0	0	111	5	0
"	Manorhamilton district, county Leitrim	22	0	0	22	0	0
"	Moville district, county Donegal	100	0	0	99	15	0
"	Urney district, county Tyrone	218	0	0	218	11	11
"	Kilbrannan district, county Roscommon	198	0	0	198	10	0
"	Creece district, county Roscommon	50	0	0	49	10	0
"	Dromagon district, county Carlow	310	0	0	310	3	6
"	Maldit district, county Leitrim	60	0	0	52	16	0
"	Murrisk district, county Mayo	30	0	0	27	10	0
	Total authorized during the week	17,114	0	0	16,881	4	0
	Previously authorized	50,452	16	0	58,538	16	4
					67,566	16	0
Dec. 11 .	Cancelled by a revised donation, February 11th, 1847	200	0	0	245	2	6
	Total	67,366	16	0	75,169	17	10

R. J. ROUTE, Commissary-General.

Dublin Castle, February 15, 1847.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 12, 1847.

WRITE to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and request that he will state to the Lords Commissioners that the services of an experienced accountant being much required by this Board to keep and make up the accounts of expenditure to be defrayed under the direction of the Commission, of which Sir John Burgoyne is the Chairman, appointed to superintend the measures of relief of the existing distress in Ireland, and as Mr. R. Madox Bromley, of the Department of the Accountant General of the Navy, gave entire satisfaction while he was acting in a similar capacity under the Relief Commission in Dublin last year, my Lords would be glad to avail themselves of his services on the present occasion if the Lords of the Admiralty could, without much inconvenience, relieve him for a time from his duties at Somerset-house.

Further state, that as the new duties to be immediately entered upon by Mr. Bromley will be arduous, it is important that he should have the assistance of a

book-keeper, in whom he can place full reliance; and my Lords trust that the Lords of the Admiralty will not see any material objection to Mr. Joseph Nash, a clerk of the third class, in the Department of the Accountant-General, being permitted to accompany Mr. Bromley on this service.

If the ordinary duties performed by these gentlemen, or either of them, are likely to fall into arrear by their absence, my Lords see no objection to temporary assistance being provided to supply their places until their return.

Mr. WARD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 16, 1847.

WITH reference to your letter of this date, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that in the present circumstances of Ireland my Lords cannot object to place Mr. Bromley at their disposal for the management of the Relief Expenditure, or to allow Mr. Nash to accompany him as book-keeper; but they must beg their Lordships to understand that the services of so experienced a clerk as Mr. Bromley cannot be dispensed with without great inconvenience to the department from which he is taken, and in which his place cannot be filled by any amount of temporary assistance.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Captain HAMILTON.

February 18, 1847.

I RETURN Sir Edward Parry's letter, and we shall be much obliged to Lord Auckland to direct a ship to be taken up at Portsmouth for each of the following places:—

In Ireland { Dublin,
Clifden, in Connemara,
Belmullet,
Killybegs,
and

In Scotland, Tobermory and Portree,

being six ships in all.

The first ship which can be got ready to be sent to Clifden.

The cargoes should consist in the main of barley-meal, with a good proportion of biscuits in each.

We do not wish the cargoes to be large if small ships are more readily obtained.

The cargoes should be consigned to the Commissariat Officer in charge of Her Majesty's Stores of Provisions at each place.

We have been in the habit of insuring all the cargoes of provisions sent by private ships, and we think the practice should be continued. If the Admiralty officers have any difficulty on this score, Mr. Erichsen, and his agent at Portsmouth, Mr. Burne, will give any assistance that may be required.

Has the biscuit baking for relief purposes commenced at the other yards besides Portsmouth?

Pray send me another experienced purser or captain's clerk, whom you can confidently recommend for the service in Ireland.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUGH.

February 18, 1847.

You will see from the accompanying copy of a letter addressed this morning to the Secretary to the Admiralty, that four ships are to be freighted at Portsmouth with barley meal and biscuits, for Dublin, Clifden, Belmullet, and Killybegs, the one for Clifden to be sent first.

The large steamer-of-war, "Avenger," is ready at Plymouth, and has been ordered to be loaded with a similar cargo, to proceed to any destination you may recommend. Pray inform me by return of post whither you would have her proceed, and in considering the subject, you will remember that this is the

most immediately available resource. A large steamer, the "Urgent," is being loaded at Portsmouth for Scotland, and with the exception of the vessel for Clifden, which has been ordered to be dispatched immediately, it may be some time before the other three vessels for Ireland will be ready.

Twenty-two large boilers from Woolwich have been put on board the "Odin," and you should therefore write at once to Cork and Kenmare (it is not certain that she will touch at Cork) to say where you wish them left.

You will see from the accompanying copy of a letter from Mr. Grant that the Portsmouth bakery is already in full activity for the relief service, and when the same measure has been brought into operation in the other naval yards, it will be an important resource.

Biscuits will form part of every cargo, and besides the use they will be turned to in connexion with the soup, they will be more portable for sending into the interior, and more readily available than any other kind of food.

You have, no doubt, heard of the exertions which have been made by Mr. Soyer, the head cook of the Reform Club, to construct an apparatus by which soup might be prepared for the starving multitudes in Ireland, which would give the greatest quantity of nourishment at the smallest cost. Mr. Soyer is considered by those who know him to be a sensible, intelligent man, and as he is certainly master of his profession, and has taken pains to render his knowledge of practical use in the present emergency, I think it not improbable that some advantage would be obtained from encouraging him.

I have requested him to prepare a model of his apparatus and to proceed to Dublin to lay it before the Lord Lieutenant; and if it, or any modification of it, should be considered applicable to large towns like Cork, Limerick, Galway, or Sligo, or even to smaller places, he might then return and have a number made, under his own superintendence, at the iron foundries at Liverpool or Colebrooke Dale.

It is also deserving of consideration whether Mr. Soyer might not be with advantage employed in teaching the persons who make the soup for the Relief Committees to make it in the most nourishing and economical manner; for great ignorance exists on this subject in many parts of the country, the only cooking the people have been accustomed to having been boiling potatoes, and many resources exist for making soup which are not made use of. I enclose two receipts for making soup by Mr. Soyer, which have been published in to-day's "Times."

I will call the attention of the London Association to your suggestion, that their depot should be at Athlone instead of Dublin, and it is possible that they may establish one at both places, in order to meet the wants of different parts of the country.

My impressions are in favour of the plan upon which the Association are acting, of giving relief, as far as they are able, in food and not in money. The evil to be remedied is a *scarcity of food*. If money only be sent, it will, by raising the price of food, place the existing stock still more out of the reach of the destitute population; but by sending supplies of food, the evil is acted upon in a direct and effectual manner by increasing the abundance and cheapness of food. Besides, food is much less capable of abuse than money. Money may be spent in a variety of ways; but food can only be *eaten*, and if additional supplies of food are sent to Ireland, nothing can prevent its becoming cheaper and more accessible to the people at large.

You can at once apply for the services of young Mr. Filder, and prepare him for what he will have to do, by giving him the official papers to read up; and in order that you may be prepared to give all the assistance which the Association may require in the county of Wicklow and elsewhere, I have applied to the Admiralty for the services of another parser or captain's clerk, to be selected for the occasion, and I have summoned from Scotland a gentleman whom I believe to be well fitted for this service.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the Earl of AUCKLAND.

February 18, 1847.

My attention was called some time ago by a large miller and corn-dealer to the subject to which the accompanying letter and enclosure relate, which is an invention for accelerating the process of grinding by introducing a blast between the mill stones; and Mr. Raikes Currie now informs me that the plan is in successful operation in a mill belonging to him, on the Thames, and that the miller, his tenant, states that his mill does, by the assistance of it, three times as much work as it did before, and does it as well as ever.

I informed Mr. Raikes Currie that I would lay the letter of the inventor before your Lordship, with whom the consideration of the subject would rest. Mr. Currie stated that the inventor, Mr. Bovill, would gladly wait upon your Lordship, if you should desire it.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 19, 1847.

E. 3478.

With reference to your letter of the 8th instant, No. 510, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the following is the distribution of the boilers, shipped by the "Tartarus":—

<i>To be Landed at Baltimore.</i>		<i>To be Landed at Limerick.</i>	
For Shirken and Clear . . .	2	For Limerick	10
" Skibbereen	2	" Kilrush (for Clare) . . .	10
" Caheragh	2	" Dingle	2
" Drumahague & Dunagh . .	2 — 8	" Cahirciveen	2
<i>At Skull.</i>		" Valentia	1
" Skull	3	" Miltown	1
" Ballydehob	3	" Tralee	1
" Crookhaven	3 — 9	" Kenmare	2
<i>At Berehaven.</i>		" Sneen	1 — 55
" For Castletown	2	To be delivered at Cork . .	10
" Adrigole	2	To Father Mathew	3 — 13
" Glengariff	2		
" Bantry	2 — 8	Total	68

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, February 19, 1847.

THE resources of the Limerick market, in comparison with most other parts of Ireland, are, and will continue to be, very respectable.

I am, for the present, selling from all our depôts in this district at 18*l*, but not, as yet, to any extent, to Committees in the neighbourhood of this city. Many of them have credit with the leading dealers to a large amount, and they cannot, although our rate is more advantageous, so readily change their arrangements; in some respects it is just as well. I should say, the trade of Limerick dispose of 1200 tons per week, meal of different sorts, the larger proportion Indian.

I am looking for the "Tartarus" with boilers; it is high time she should be in the Shannon, but the weather, as usual, has been very heavy. All our craft, steamers, and lighters are actively and usefully employed.

Government donations, in aid of subscriptions, are getting numerous and heavy. I have paid, since the 1st of January, and have in course of payment, together, upwards of 25,000*l*.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 19, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, a copy of

a communication from the Comptroller of the Victualling, enclosing an abstract of Reports from the Superintendents of Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth Victualling Yards, showing the estimated cost of biscuit, made from whole wheaten meal, and from other grain and pulse mixed with whole wheaten meal, in various proportions.

Specimens are sent herewith.

ENCLOSURES.

MEMORANDUM.

February 18, 1847.

THE Captain-Superintendent at Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, having been requested to prepare for Relief Service, samples of biscuit composed of whole wheaten meal alone, and of that article when mixed with barley meal, pease meal, and bean meal, in various proportions, the Comptroller of Victualling begs to send herewith, for their Lordships' inspection, and that of the Treasury, the several samples which have been received, together with an abstract of the Reports from the respective establishments by which they were accompanied.

Arrangements have been made for baking from whole wheaten meal only, until it has been decided whether any portion of the biscuit to be provided shall be of a mixed quality as above described.

The very small difference in price would seem to render it advisable that it should be confined to that composed of whole biscuit meal only, but upon this point an early decision is desirable, in order that, if biscuit of a mixed quality should be preferred, a sufficient quantity of pease, bean, and barley meal may be forthwith provided.

(Signed)

JAMES MACK.

ABSTRACT of the accompanying Reports, showing the Estimated Cost of Biscuit made from whole Wheaten Meal, and from other Grain and Pulse mixed with whole Wheaten Meal, in Various Proportions.

	Deptford.	Portsmouth.	Plymouth.
	Per Cwt. s. d.	Per Cwt. s. d.	Per Cwt. s. d.
1. Whole wheaten meal	20 6	22 6	23 6
2. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ barley meal			21 10
3. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ pease meal	20 3		22 3
4. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ bean meal	20 3	19 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 2
5. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ barley meal	20 3		22 3
6. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ barley meal $\frac{1}{2}$ pease meal			22 2
7. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ pease meal	20 3	20 8	23 0
8. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ bean meal	20 3	20 8	22 8
9. $\frac{1}{2}$ pease meal $\frac{1}{2}$ barley meal	20 3		21 0
10. $\frac{1}{2}$ whole wheaten meal $\frac{1}{2}$ pease meal			22 9
11. $\frac{1}{2}$ barley meal $\frac{1}{2}$ bean meal	20 3		

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 19, 1847.

Mr. Trevelyan reports to the Board, that he has informed Captain Hamilton that the specimens of biscuit made of wheaten meal are considered the best, and that this material should be adopted in preference to the others, unless the use of a proportion of barley meal would allow of the manufacture of a larger quantity. My Lords approve.

X 2

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 19, 1847.

We entirely approve of your entrusting the affairs of the London Relief Association to Assistant Commissary-General Adams's able management.

Each person in charge of stores belonging to the Association should furnish the usual periodical accounts to Mr. Adams, who should consolidate them and forward them to the Association.

Mr. Adams should also furnish the Association with a weekly statement, similar to that which you send me, showing the issues and remains; but it would be satisfactory to the Association if, instead of giving the issues in gross, as you do to us, Mr. Adams were to give them in detail, which he might easily do, as they are not so numerous as ours, and are made in considerable quantities together, upon the orders of the Association.

The orders made by the Association upon depôts under Mr. Adams's charge, had, I think, better be sent *through you*, in order that you may interpose in any case in which you think it necessary, and suspend the execution of the order until you have made a reference to the Committee. You also would not be able to advise the Committee as to the necessity for replenishing their depôts unless the orders passed through you.

I entirely agree with you that it will be advisable for the Committee to establish a depôt for Athlone, this being an unoccupied central position between our depôts at Banagher and Longford.

As a general rule, it is better that the Committee should establish their depôts at places where we have none, and I hope they will open stores at every place on the eastern and southern coast, where they are required, this extensive district being entirely unoccupied by us as regards depôts.

But however desirable this may be as a *general rule*, numerous cases occur in which the Association desire to make grants of food in the neighbourhood of places at which we have depôts; and in these cases one of two things must be done,—either we must accommodate them by allowing them to give orders upon our depôts, to be paid for by them, or they must establish depôts of their own.

I have proposed that the first-mentioned course should be adopted at *Lisnerick*, where we have large supplies, present and future, to rely on.

But as far as we are at present informed, we cannot take upon ourselves this responsibility at our other depôts; and if the Association wish to have the command of provisions at the places at which these other depôts of ours are established, they must establish depôts of their own, which we will manage for them, if they think proper, and render them a separate account as above stated.

It is, as you observe, indispensable necessary that the Association should sell at the same prices as we do, at the places at which they have depôts as well as ourselves, but it will be open to them to make any *grants* of food they please, either at those places or at any other where they have the command of stores.

And even in regards those places at which the Association *alone* have stores, it would be desirable that they should sell at our prices.

There must have been some misapprehension somewhere about the cargoes consigned to Mr. Forster, the intention of the Committee being that we should take Mr. Forster into our service, and take charge, through him, of the cargoes which have been consigned by the Association to his care, holding them to meet any orders the Association may make upon them.

It would be desirable that Mr. Forster, and other officers of ours in charge of provisions belonging to the Association, should have authority given them to sell to Relief Committees at our prices, on behalf of the Association, without any express order, in cases in which the food is urgently required.

After this full explanation of the course which is proposed to be pursued, I trust that you will be able to manage the affairs of the Association without their conflicting, or being confused with ours, and you will be assisted in this by the immediate direction of them being confided to Mr. Adams, under your superintendence.

I will suggest to the Association to adopt a printed form for the issue of stores, putting a column for "The Article of Supply," in lieu of one for the sum; and I will also communicate to them the importance you justly attach to the name of the place being distinctly written, with the name of the county, and to orders not being given to places too distant.

Your suggestions with regard to the particulars to be included in their money orders will also, no doubt, be attended to, but the Association are withdrawing as much as possible from the plan of making grants in money.

Another Captain's clerk, a Mr. Saunders, who is highly recommended by the Admiralty, has been directed to proceed to Dublin to place himself under your orders, that he may be available for this service.

The Association have ordered supplies to be sent from Liverpool to Arklow, in the small vessels belonging to the Mining Association, and you should, therefore, have an officer ready at Arklow to receive and store them.

I hope, also, the Association will order one or more cargoes to be sent to Wicklow, if they have not already done so.

Messrs. RUSSELL and Sons to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*London, 159, Fenchurch Street,
February 17, 1847.*

We beg to draw your attention to a communication made to our house at Limerick from the Commissary-General stationed there, that he was to supply the Relief Committees with a certain portion of his stock at the reduced rate of 18*l.* per ton, this being, as we believe, at variance with the engagement of the Government that the depôt was formed at Limerick not to interfere with the trade there, but to supply other districts which had not the same mercantile facilities.

We feel this course of underselling is more particularly uncalled for when the soundness of the policy previously pursued has been so triumphantly established, by the supplies of all kinds of food into Limerick being so great, that there is a difficulty in discharging the numerous vessels. This attempt to depress prices by artificial means must recoil on them, as it can only have the effect of diverting from that port the supplies which would otherwise go there; and vessels calling for orders will be sent to some other market free from the action of the Commissariat Department.

While a Waterford circular, of the 13th, announcing great arrivals of Indian corn, "in immense demand," quotes prices 47*s.* to 47*s.* 6*d.* per 280 lbs., or from 18*l.* 16*s.* to 19*l.* per ton, and Indian corn meal from 19*l.* to 21*l.* per ton, it would be idle to suppose cargoes can go to Limerick when meal is forced down to 18*l.* per ton. This course is the less deserved at Limerick, where our house, from the extent of our business principally governing the market in the surrounding district, has made such efforts, at considerable pecuniary sacrifices, to keep prices generally below other ports, though more favourably situated.

We need scarce impress upon you the importance of the merchants having perfect confidence in the declarations (on the faith of which their operations are in great measure based) made by Government being strictly adhered to, otherwise they may be led to conclude that it is to make room for fresh supplies to be issued in rivalry with them.

If any fear is entertained that a portion of the stock in store at Limerick will not keep, cannot it be sent to the districts at a distance from it, and which were originally stated by Government as their object?

E. 3642.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, for any observations he may have to offer on the subject of it.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 20, 1847.

ADVERTING to your letter, No. 530, of the 18th instant, transmitting to me copy of a letter from Messrs. Russell and Sons, representing the interference of the Commissariat at Limerick with the course of trade, I have the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that at the time I fixed the price of 18*l.*

for the Indian corn meal at Limerick, the sale of several cargoes had been made at Cork at the rate of 17*l*. and 17*l*. 5*s*. per ton.

I did not believe that this was a permanent reduction, but it was a fair opportunity for me to lower our price to the public while it lasted, and the more so as we had a certain quantity of Indian corn meal of last season which it was necessary to dispose of. This quantity is excellent at the present moment, but it would not be prudent to keep it beyond the 1st of April; neither has the circumstance been unknown to the trade, for much pains have been taken to depreciate the character of this meal in the public opinion.

Mr. Russell was informed of our intention to dispose of this quantity so as to incur no risk.

This is the history of the case, but in pledging ourselves to sell at the market price, it does not appear that we are called upon to sell at the top market prices. If there is any fall in the market, I think I am fairly entitled to give the community the advantage of it.

The late advices from America have had an influence on the market, but this is of a temporary nature, for there is never any large quantity of supplies in the American ports: they are brought from the interior according to the demand, and the canals being frozen, this communication is suspended.

Therefore, the New York Price Current refers only to the stock in hand at that port, and not to the main country supplies.

With reference, however, to the actual rise in the market, we must of course revert to our former prices.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROOTH.

February 20, 1847.

BESIDES the prospective shipments already advised from Portsmouth and Plymouth, about 400 tons of meal of different descriptions have accumulated in the Thames since the departure of the "Odin" for Kenmare and Belmullet, and of the two cargoes to Galway, and the two to Killybegs.

Pray inform me how you wish this additional quantity of 400 tons to be disposed of.

Pray do this *by return of post*, and let me know at the same time to what places you wish our future supplies to be sent as they accumulate from time to time.

I will request the Association to send the invoices or statements, as far as they are able, of the cargoes which have been already consigned by them to the coasts of Wexford and Wicklow, and of any others they may intrust to you, and you will have to render a separate account of them to the Association, so that the Association may be saved all the trouble and expense of agency, storage, &c., and may have nothing to do but to give orders on their depôts, and send more cargoes as they are required.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR J. BURGONYE.

Treasury, February 20, 1847.

It is, of course, a great advantage in selecting the Inspecting Officers to act under your Commission, that a candidate should be an Irishman, or well acquainted with Ireland, and supposing that other requisite qualifications exist, such persons should be preferred. It is also a great advantage that a candidate should have been trained to habits of business in the army, navy, or other of the public establishments, and that in this way his character and fitness should be thoroughly well known; but the main thing of all is, that your Commission should exercise a perfectly independent choice from among all the candidates who are brought to your notice, and that it should be felt by the Inspectors themselves, and by everybody connected with them, that, being appointed by you, their great object should be to earn your approbation, and that failing that, they must expect to be removed without any appeal.

Rev. T. MATHEW to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 20, 1847.

ADMIRAL PIGOT has very kindly sent to me three large boilers, and, as soon as possible, they shall be devoted to the cooking of good substantial soup, to be distributed gratuitously to the destitute poor. Beans and peas, not over-boiled, I consider the most nutritious vegetables to be added to flesh or fish soup. It would effect a double good, as I suggested in a former letter, if Irish-cured fish were used twice or thrice a-week in the administration of food to the destitute. I intend my pottage to be both meat and drink.

I have not as yet received the quern; but as it is on its way, I gratefully thank you for it, and for the boilers.

I do not rely much on the co-operation of the upper or middle classes in the carrying out of the very liberal measures intended by Government for the saving of the lives of the people. There are so many selfish contending interests influencing the minds of men. It will, I apprehend, be left to Government to see its benevolent intentions accomplished. I am still full of hope that bread stuffs will not long hold their present high prices. The introduction of rice, beans, peas, and, I hope, fish, into general use, will much contribute to lower the markets.

Captain GLASCOCK to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Armagh, Beresford Arms,
February 20, 1847.*

THE more I see and think of the existing and fast-increasing destitution, the more I feel persuaded that it is not in the power of any Government to feed a starving dense population.

Yet, with all mistakes and admitted errors (and who could guard against or foretell a national calamity of so appalling a nature), Government has done wonders. There is an outcry against what is termed the "destructive system;" yet unproductive as it may seem, the popular mode (at least with the poor) of administering ready relief is that afforded by employment on the Public Works. Road making and mending support thousands and thousands; and whether such employment was conceived in error or not, the starving population now seek it with pressing importunity. Mobs of women, as well as men, assail you on the road, imploring relief by such employment.

Destitution daily increases, and disease, since I last addressed you, is alarmingly on the increase. Deaths, in the district of Lurgan, average 60 per week. Nor is dysentery confined there to the lower orders.

I have just heard that Mr. Blakiston Houston, of Orangefield, Belfast, has made an offer of 10s. per acre to labourers who will assist in ploughing his tenants' land. This proposition, it is said, will employ many destitute labourers.

Commander NOTT to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Londonderry, February 20, 1847.

THE western districts having been filled, Sir Randolph Routh appointed me to this county, where, compared with the other end of the island, you will be glad to learn very little absolute destitution has as yet been felt. In the city of Derry, I am happy to acquaint you that the arrangement and liberality of the inhabitants has hitherto provided for the necessitous. Their fears are now becoming excited by the influx of mendicants from Tyrone, Donegal, and various other places.

The country around this city has also, as far as I have yet been able to explore, been characterized by the same sound and liberal wisdom, and consequently, little more than ordinary privation has been as yet felt.

The poor-houses, however, afford a warning of more pressing times; while it is cheerful to witness the bustle and activity manifested in the preparation for cropping the ground. The next week will be devoted to a more distant part of the county, where, I fear, things are not so favourable. Some of the Relief Committees which I have attended have requested me to forward applications from them for pecuniary aid; but in those cases I have requested them to refer to me, thereby gaining time to make further inquiry.

Captain WILLIAMS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

"Odin," February 21, 1847,
Off the Downs.

We started from Greenhithe this morning, and if the weather continues fair, we shall be at Plymouth to-morrow evening, where we take in a pilot. We then go on to Cork, to land 22 *boilers*; then to Kenmare, to land 75 tons of seed, oats and barley; and which, if we are lucky in our weather, may be got into the ground by the 1st March—at any rate, long before St. Patrick's Day. We shall lose no time at Kenmare, but push on to Belmullet, to land our 280 tons of meal and rice.

Mr. GRANT to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Royal Clarence Yard, February 22, 1847.

We have this afternoon despatched the "*Botsey*" for Clifden. She takes 595 sacks of barley meal, and 156 bags of biscuit.

I have requested Mr. Burn, on the part of Mr. Erichsen, to effect an insurance on her.

To-morrow the "*Dauntless*" will be ready to commence loading with barley meal and biscuit, for Tobermory. She will probably take all the barley meal we have at present in store, viz., 3500-sacks, with a proportion of biscuit; but, by the end of the present week, we shall have sufficient meal and biscuit to commence loading vessels for

Dublin, Belmullet,
Killybegs, Portree.

We are manufacturing at this yard, at the present time, during each 24 hours, for "*Relief purposes*,"

Biscuit, 26,000 lbs.
Meal, 33,000 lbs.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 23, 1847.

A COMMUNICATION has been received from some benevolent individuals at Birmingham, commending your Cheap Food Pamphlet, and proposing a republication of it in this country; and they have been informed in reply, that any individuals, or societies, who may wish to re-publish it, are at liberty to do so.

As M. Soyer has, at great pains and expense, prepared a model of a soup kitchen, which he conceives to be well adapted to feed a large number of persons at as moderate a cost and with as little inconvenience as the case admits of, and as he is considered by those who know him to be an able and ingenious person in his profession, it is thought that he may be encouraged to the extent of paying his travelling expenses to and from Dublin, to enable him to submit his model to the Lord Lieutenant; and unless His Excellency should express an objection, this will be done. So many persons who profess to have examined into, and made themselves acquainted with, M. Soyer's performances, think well of them as applicable to the mitigation of the present calamity, that it seems to be desirable to give the matter a trial, if it were merely for the sake of showing that no plan which promised any advantage has been left untried.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 22, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Weekly Return of the Commissariat Depôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations and of the sums subscribed up to the 20th instant.

RECAPITULATION of REMAINS on the 20th of February, 1847.

16,733 quarters of Indian corn at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	3,366½ tons.
1,505½ quarters of pease at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	261½ „
32,516 sacks of Indian corn meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	4,077 „
1,888 sacks of wheaten meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	236 „
13,528 sacks of barley meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	1,691 „
1,323 sacks of oatmeal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	165½ „
3,293 bags of biscuit at 20 sacks per ton are equal to	164½ „
235 tuns of pork at 7 tuns per ton are equal to	33½ „
452 barrels of pork at 11 barrels at per ton are equal to	41¼ „

Total remains . . . 10,013½ tons.

Issues during the Week:—

317 quarters of Indian corn at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	75½ tons.
2½ quarters of pease at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	½ „
3,454 sacks of Indian meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	431½ „
189 sacks of wheaten meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	23½ „
163 sacks of barley meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	20½ „
5 sacks of oatmeal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	¾ „
669 bags of biscuit at 20 bags per ton are equal to	33½ „

Total issues . . . 587½ tons.

The Castle, Dublin, February 22, 1847.

R. J. ROYCE, Commissary-General.

LIST of DONATIONS authorized to be issued by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in aid of Subscriptions raised by Relief Committees in Ireland, up to the 20th of February, 1847.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1847							
Feb. 12	Tandrage district, county Armagh . . .	129	0	0	129	10	6
„	Carlew borough district, county Carlew . . .	845	0	0	845	5	3
„	Barragh district, county Carlew . . .	32	0	0	32	8	0
„	Balbriggan district, county Dublin . . .	108	0	0	108	9	11
„	Holmpatrick district, county Dublin . . .	197	0	0	196	15	0
„	Ballybracken district, county Kildare . . .	141	0	0	141	17	6
„	Inistiague district, county Kilkenny . . .	224	0	0	224	18	4
„	Kells district, county Kilkenny . . .	152	0	0	152	18	0
„	Callan district, county Kilkenny . . .	332	0	0	332	9	3
„	Drageeth district, county Louth . . .	1,083	0	0	1,083	12	10
„	Pantheon, &c. district, county Meath . . .	58	0	0	58	7	10
„	Corclone district, Queen's County . . .	110	0	0	110	0	0
„	Kilsen and Athlenny district, county Meath . . .	103	0	0	103	0	0
„	Clonsilla district, county Westmeath . . .	43	0	0	43	12	0
„	Boothfort Bridge district, county Westmeath . . .	164	0	0	164	12	0
„	Blackrock, &c. district, county Cork . . .	86	0	0	86	18	6
„	Corrickbeg district, county Waterford . . .	42	0	0	42	0	0
„	Clonmel district, county Tipperary . . .	477	0	0	477	15	2
„	Clonsilla district, county Tipperary . . .	1,046	0	0	1,046	6	6
„	Donsoghmore district, county Donegal . . .	479	0	0	479	0	0
„	Crows, &c. district, county Roscommon . . .	54	0	0	54	0	0
Feb. 13	Kilcummin, &c. district, county Kerry . . .	289	0	0	289	0	0
„	Skreen district, county Sligo . . .	12	0	0	10	10	0
„	Bushmills, &c. district, county Antrim . . .	429	0	0	429	7	6
Feb. 15	Ballow district, county Carlew . . .	253	0	0	253	0	0
„	Kingscourt district, county Cavan . . .	122	0	0	122	17	10
„	Kilkenny borough district, county Kilkenny . . .	567	0	0	567	13	2
„	Kilcomney district, King's County . . .	56	0	0	56	18	6
„	Kilmore district, county Meath . . .	89	0	0	89	0	6
„	Moyanna district, Queen's county . . .	56	0	0	56	10	0
„	Timahoe district, Queen's county . . .	51	0	0	51	0	0
„	Killogney, &c. district, county Wexford . . .	23	0	0	23	10	0
„	Ashford district, county Wicklow . . .	29	0	0	29	3	0
„	Clonsilla district, county Tipperary . . .	268	0	0	268	14	8
„	Killmuck district, county Tipperary . . .	25	0	0	25	0	0
„	Kilmeashlaugh district, county Tipperary . . .	37	0	0	37	0	0
„	Ballyhoody district, county Cork . . .	90	0	0	90	10	0
„	Derryvullen East district, county Fermanagh . . .	50	0	0	50	1	6
Feb. 16	Aghahill district, county Antrim . . .	79	0	0	79	12	6
„	Collinstown district, county Westmeath . . .	50	0	0	50	19	6
„	Dunsoghmore district, county Meath . . .	196	0	0	196	10	0
„	Clonsilla district, King's County . . .	155	0	0	155	13	0
„	Ballyboy district, King's County . . .	159	0	0	159	10	0
„	Ashford district, county Down . . .	28	0	0	28	10	0
„	Rathfriland district, county Carlew . . .	146	0	0	146	17	0
„	Jonasborough district, county Armagh . . .	130	0	0	130	13	4
„	Clonsilla district, county Armagh . . .	98	0	0	98	12	6
„	Lisburn district, county Antrim . . .	499	0	0	499	9	6

List of Donations, &c.—continued.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donations.	Subscriptions.
1847		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Feb. 16	Cappawhite district, county Tipperary	86 0 0	86 12 6
"	Arklow district, county Wick	170 0 0	170 4 7
"	Ballinacorney district, county Cork	78 0 0	78 13 6
"	Bandon district, county Cork	668 0 0	668 1 3½
"	Kinsale district, county Cork	92 0 0	92 10 3
"	Skibbereen district, county Cork	509 0 0	476 15 6
"	Boyle district, county Roscommon	112 0 0	112 5 0
"	Foxford district, county Mayo	100 0 0	71 0 0
"	Crossbeg district, county Mayo	123 0 0	112 6 0
"	Killalea district, county Mayo	240 0 0	201 5 9
	Authorized during the week	12,065 0 0	12,029 14 11½
	Previously authorized	67,865 16 0	75,169 17 10
	Total	79,931 16 0	87,198 12 9½

R. J. ROUTH, Commissary-General.

The Castle, Dublin, February 22, 1847.

Mr. STEPHEN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Downing-street, February 16, 1847.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the copy of a letter from the Commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration, with an enclosure from the Government Agent at Liverpool, reporting that the emigration from that port has not ceased during the last 12 months, and that 6000 persons have already taken their departure from thence.

18 February, 1847.

I am to request, that you will also draw the attention of their Lordships, to the circumstance mentioned by the Commissioners of the Land Board, that the Relief Committees in Ireland are forwarding emigrants from that country to Liverpool.

ENCLOSURES.

COMMISSIONERS OF COLONIAL LAND AND EMIGRATION to Mr. STEPHENS.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office.
February 10, 1847.

We have the honour to forward, for the information of Earl Grey, the enclosed extracts of a letter from Lieutenant Hodder, R.N., at Liverpool, from which it will be seen that emigration has had no cessation this year, and that 6000 people have already gone from Liverpool. It appears to be not yet expected at Liverpool that tonnage will be deficient, or the price of passages be raised.

8 February, 1847.

We will take measures for obtaining a return every fortnight of the amount of emigration, and at the end of each month we shall be able to show a comparative statement for the same period last year.

We ought perhaps to add, that we understand the Relief Committees are forwarding emigrants from Ireland to Liverpool.

EXTRACTS of a LETTER from Lieutenant HODDER, R.N., GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION AGENT at LIVERPOOL, dated the 8th of FEBRUARY, 1847.

" THERE has been no cessation to emigration for the last 12 months, and it still continues; up to the present date it exceeds 6000 persons, and if you would like a weekly or a monthly return it shall be sent.

" Notwithstanding the enlarged prospects of emigration this year, it is generally thought there will be a sufficient amount of tonnage available at 16s. per ton, at which price the passage-money to the United States will not exceed 4l.; the charter of Canadian vessels will not be under this price, but the increased numbers they can carry will probably lower the passage something."

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 16, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter and of its enclosures to Sir R. Routh, and desire that he will furnish this Board with any information in his power in reference to the statement contained therein, that "the Relief Committees in Ireland are forwarding emigrants from that country to Liverpool."

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 20, 1847.

E. 3642.

In reply to your letter, No. 531, dated 18th instant, enclosing copy of a letter from the Colonial Office, and calling upon me to furnish such information as may be in my power in reference to the statements contained therein, that the Relief Committees in Ireland are forwarding emigrants from this country to Liverpool, I have the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that it is difficult for me to obtain official cognizance of these facts; but I lay before you *one* official statement from Commissariat Clerk Hughes at Skibbereen, and I beg to add that it is generally understood that this emigration is going on extensively, but to what extent I have no means of ascertaining, nor am I prepared to say that the Relief Committees are appropriating their funds to such disbursements; the more usual course is for the landlord to pay these expenses, and I believe the greater proportion is so defrayed.

E. 3642.
See page 136.

The report from Skibbereen is the only instance which has been communicated to me in a contrary sense.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 23, 1847.

Write to Mr. Phillips that the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, having drawn the attention of this Board to a statement made by the Commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration, that the Relief Committees in Ireland are forwarding emigrants from that country to Liverpool, my Lords directed a communication on the subject to be made to Sir R. Routh, copies of which and of his answer with its enclosures, annex for the information of Secretary Sir G. Grey.

A copy of the letter from the Commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration, in which the above statement is contained, is not forwarded, as my Lords understand that it has already been laid before Sir G. Grey.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir JOHN BURGONNE.

February 18, 1847.

AN opinion has begun to prevail here that some effectual aid might be given from this country in providing the people in the most distressed localities with medical advice, medicine, and what are usually called medical comforts; and, however painful it may be to have to say it, some means of removing and burying the dead, must form part of the measures to be adopted. The receipt from the commander of the "Scourge," an officer of undoubted honour and veracity, of the accompanying awful letter, describing the result of his personal observations in the immediate neighbourhood of Scull, has led to the following proposition being made, which has Lord Auckland's full concurrence, that two half-pay naval medical officers should be sent to Scull, provided with medicine chests, and attended by a party of marine pensioners, who have been accustomed to act as nurses in the naval hospitals; and that these gentlemen and their assistants should visit the sick, administer remedies to them, assist in providing them with food from the stores of the Relief Committees, and see to the removal and decent burial of the dead, and that other parties of medical officers and pensioners should, in like manner, be sent to other localities which are in such a distressed state as to require similar assistance.

Relief of this kind can only be carried to a limited extent, the number of

available naval and military medical officers being but small; but it will do good as far as it goes, and the calamities of Ireland are so great and pressing, that it is only by bringing every available means of relief to bear upon them, that we can hope to make any impression. Let us save as many as we can.

We shall be obliged to you to lay this subject before the Lord Lieutenant, after consulting the Board of Health, and to let me know whether his Lordship approves of the plan, or of any modification of it; and in the mean time Lord Auckland will order the medical officers to get their medicine chests ready, and to prepare the pensioners who would have to accompany them.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR J. BURGOYNE.

February 19, 1847.

You will find overleaf a copy of a communication from Admiral Pigot, suggesting that the establishment of medical officers and marines, proposed to be sent to Scull, should be provided with carts for the conveyance of soup to the homes of the sick.

We might form two or three, or possibly, if great efforts were made, a dozen such establishments, which would do good as far as they went, and would serve as an example to the Relief Committees; but it is needless to add, that it is impossible for us to organize any such machinery as would stand in the place of that which should be organized, where necessary, by the Relief Committees.

Your notion, I think, was, that carts should be provided for the conveyance of the soup by the people themselves; but Admiral Pigot's plan appears to contemplate the case of people who are further gone in sickness and helplessness.

SIR J. BURGOYNE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 22, 1847.

TERIBLE as are the accounts from Skull, it is, I fear, too certain many other districts suffer in the same degree from want of food, some of them in the interior, where, from that circumstance, there will be less chance of their obtaining supplies.

The suggestion of the carts, for conveying the food about the country, is a very natural one, and will assuredly be adopted by the Relief Committees where practicable, but horses are diminishing fast. Several, if not all the Judges who are now proceeding on circuit, are obliged to take the same horses from Dublin throughout, as they would have no chance of changing them as usual.

A cart system would be easily organized if the calamity was of a district, but it is too extensive to be essentially mitigated by any such means from available Government resources.

Remonstrances are coming in against handing over the relief funds at present in hand to the new Committees of Electoral Divisions, as they will then go to the benefit of proprietors who were able, but neglected to subscribe, and will save them from so much of rates.

There is much justice in this; and I apprehend that, in such cases, they had better not be touched without the consent of the parties now in possession, but left with them to be expended in charitable purposes, that is, for compassionate objects for relief, exceeding the rigid amount that must be given under the compulsory law.

It would be desirable that these funds should be handed over to the new Committees, and therefore we may express a hope that they will be, and I believe we can do no more.

HON. S. SPRING RICE to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Committee-Room, February 22, 1847.

I AM directed to forward to you the enclosed extract, as being a remarkable illustration of the anomalous social state of Ireland, which it is right to lay before Her Majesty's Government; and I have also to draw your attention to the passage respecting boilers.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from Capt. HASTON'S LETTER of 19th February, 1847.

ONE of the partners in the farm, which in better times must have been prosperous, as they had grass for 40 cows one side of the village, and for 35 the other, told me that a good many amongst them had a *little* seed, but which they would not sow, as when the harvest came it would not be their property, and were they alive they would be murdered by those who had none for their crop; but that they would lie down and die after eating the little they had kept for putting in the land; many inquiries were made if the landholders were going to supply them with seed.

In the town here (Dingle) there is a good bakery established by the Rev. Mr. Geyer, and a soup-kitchen; but more boilers are wanted.

Commander CAFFIN to Captain HAMILTON.

February 15, 1847.

HAVING in the course of my late duty (of discharging a cargo of meal, &c.) at Skull, been brought into direct contact with the distress that prevails there and in its neighbourhood, I venture to lay before you (feeling assured it would interest you in their behalf) that which I had ocular demonstration of.

In the village of Skull, three-fourths of the inhabitants you meet carry the tale of woe in their features and persons, as they are reduced to mere skeletons, the men in particular, all their physical power being wasted away; they have all become beggars.

In landing the meal, &c., they used all the cunning they possessed to avoid detection in cutting open the mouths of the bags and purloining the contents; and it required great watchfulness to prevent it.

Having a great desire to see with my own eyes some of the misery which was said to exist, Dr. Traill, the rector of Skull, offered to drive me to a portion of his parish. I found there was no need to take me beyond the village to show me the horrors of famine in its worst features. I had read in the papers letters and accounts of this state of things, but I thought they must be highly coloured to attract sympathy; but there I saw the reality of the whole—no exaggeration, for it does not admit of it—famine exists to a fearful degree, with all its horrors! Fever has sprung up, consequent upon the wretchedness; and swellings of limbs and body, and diarrhoea, from the want of nourishment, are everywhere to be found. Dr. Traill's parish is 21 miles in extent, containing about 18,000 souls, with not more than half-a-dozen gentlemen in the whole of it. He drove me about five or six miles; but we commenced our visits before leaving the village, and in no house that I entered was there not to be found the dead or dying; in particularising two or three, they may be taken as the picture of the whole—there was no picking or choosing, but we took them just as they came.

The first which I shall mention was a cabin, rather above the ordinary ones in appearance and comfort; in it were three young women and one young man, and three children, all crouched over a fire, and the pictures of misery. Dr. Traill asked after the father, upon which one of the girls opened a door leading into another cabin, and there were the father and mother in bed, the father the most wretched picture of starvation possible to conceive, a skeleton with life, his power of speech gone! the mother but a little better, her cries for mercy and food were heartrending; it was sheer destitution which had brought them to this. They had been well to do in the world, with a cow and a few sheep, and potato ground; their crops failed, and their cattle were stolen, although, anticipating this, they had taken their cow and sheep into the cabin with them every night, but they were stolen in the daytime. The son had worked on the roads and earned his 8d. per day, but this could not keep the family, and he from work and insufficiency of food is laid up, and will soon be as bad as his father. They had nothing to eat in the house, and I could see no hope for any one of them.

In another cabin we went into, were a mother and her daughter; the daughter emaciated, and lying against the wall; the mother naked, upon some straw on the ground, with a rug over her, a most distressing object of misery; she writhed about and bared her limbs in order to show us her state of exhaustion. She had wasted away until nothing but the skin covered the bones; she cannot have survived till this time.

Another that I entered had, indeed, the appearance of wretchedness without, but its inside was misery. Dr. Traill, on putting his head inside the hole which answered for a door, said, "Well, Phillis, how is your mother to-day?" he having been with her the day before. She replied, "Oh, Sir, is it you? Mother is dead!" And there, fearful reality, was the daughter, a skeleton herself, crouched and crying over the lifeless body of her mother, which was on the floor, cramped up as she had died, with her rags and her cloak about her, by the side of a few embers of peat.

In the next cabin were three young children belonging to the daughter, whose husband had run away from her, all pictures of death. The poor creature said she did not know what to do with the corpse, she had no means of getting it removed, and she was too exhausted to remove it herself. This cabin was about three miles from the rectory.

In another cabin, the door of which was stopped with dung, was a poor woman, whom we had taken by surprise, as she roused up evidently much astonished. She burst into tears upon seeing the doctor, and said she had not been able to sleep since the corpse of the woman had lain in her bed. This was a poor creature who was passing this miserable cabin, and asked the old woman to allow her to rest herself for a few moments. She had lain down, but never rose up again. She died in an hour or so from sheer exhaustion. The body had remained in this hovel of six feet square, with the poor old woman for four days; she could not get anybody to remove it. She said she trusted her sins were pardoned. She had prayed earnestly for forgiveness. She had been a wicked sinner, but God was merciful, and her Saviour was all-sufficient. She thought she could die, and longed to depart and be at peace, and she had blocked up the door that she might not be disturbed. She had some money—a trifle—by her; but living four or five miles from the village, she could not get any food. She had asked her neighbours' children to buy her some, but they were too much taken up with themselves. She could not rise up, and could just manage to kneel. She had nothing to eat in her miserable hole, and I fear must be dead ere this.

I could, in this manner, take you through the thirty or more cottages that we visited; but they, without exception, were all alike—the dead and the dying in each; and I could tell you more of the truth of the heartrending scene, were I to mention the lamentations and bitter cries of each of these poor creatures on the threshold of death. Never in my life have I seen such wholesale misery, nor could I have thought it so complete. I am convinced in that district it is not in human power to stay the evil; it may be to alleviate it: but this must be by a good organized system, and the supply chiefly gratuitous. I am of opinion a number of naval surgeons should be employed, having under their orders a number of men—who might be selected from the lists of pensioners (if they could be highly recommended)—to have charge of certain districts, not only dispensing medicine where it may be required, but also food, on an order of the Relief Committee to any person in their district. The pensioner or two who might be under each surgeon would not only assist in visiting, but in conveying the food and medicines, &c., to the poor; and by being strangers to the localities, having no friends, would do this duty without partiality. The surgeons should act with the Relief Committees, but independent of them. A Board of Health is also now wanted, as it cannot be expected but a pestilence will rage when the mass of these bodies decompose. They have ceased to put them into coffins, or to have the funeral service performed, and they merely lay them a few inches under the soil.

All that I have stated above I have seen with my own eyes, and can vouch for the truth of; and I feel I cannot convey by words the impression left on my mind of this awful state of things.

I could tell you, also, of that which I could vouch for the truth of, but which I did not see myself, such as bodies half eaten by the rats; of two dogs last Wednesday being shot by Mr. O'Callaghan whilst tearing a body to pieces; of his mother-in-law stopping a poor woman, and asking her what she had on her back; and being told that it was her son, a fear was expressed that she might smother it. But the poor emaciated woman said it was dead already, and she was going to dig a hole in the churchyard for it.

These are things which are of every-day occurrence.

I trust you will pardon my having troubled you with this, and taken up so

much of your time. I have given the counterpart of it to Sir Hugh Pigot; but thinking you might like to have it I send it to you. I enclose one of Dr. Traill's letters; every word I can answer for the truth of.

There have been two or three *post mortem* examinations of those who have died, and they find that the inner membrane of the stomach turns into a white mucus, as if nature had supported herself upon herself, until exhaustion of all the humours of the system had taken place.

Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 19, 1847.

A PERUSAL of the enclosed papers will afford you neither a solitary nor an uninteresting illustration of the prevailing "unaccountable" state of things. The printed advertisement appeared in a Cork paper of last evening, detailing some cases of mortality under frightful circumstances; the natural inference is that "food could not be obtained." A few days ago I received the attached note from the principal miller in that part of the country, telling me that he had nearly *two hundred tons* of Indian and other meal, which he found so much difficulty in disposing of, that he fears, unless the Government will become the purchaser, he must send it to another market. This meal is within *two miles* of the parish of Caheragh. Some large sums of money have been sent to Caheragh—private contributions. The offer of Government, made by me on the 23rd January last, to *double* these sums has not yet been accepted. May we not ask, with the rector, "Are we living in a portion of the United Kingdom?"

ENCLOSURE.

REV. RICHARD FRANCIS WEBB, Rector of Caheragh, to the EDITOR of the SOUTHERN REPORTER.

Monksland, Monday Morning.

IT is wrong that I should be silent any longer, surrounded as I am by such scenes as the following letter describes, and I therefore beg you will insert it in your next number. What gave occasion to its being written to me was my stating at church on Sunday last (yesterday), that I had sent on the day before two confidential men,—one a Protestant, and the other a Roman Catholic,—through a great portion of this parish, to ascertain again the state of the population of each farm, so as to enable me to amend the list of those to whom I was, and have been, for three months, giving gratuitous relief. On their return, they came to a farm called Tourreen, the destitute of which have been, from the beginning, receiving relief here, and the men I sent were warned not to go near a batch of houses, as the inhabitants were all dead or dying; on my mentioning this, and saying I had so very much to do that I could not go to ascertain their state exactly, a gentleman, who attends my church, and was present, and who lives on the bounds of the parish, not very far from this most miserable spot, volunteered to go himself and investigate its state. I this morning received his report, which I now copy; he has no idea of its being published, and only wrote it, most kindly, to inform me of the situation of this part of the parish. It is as follows, verbatim:—

"The following is a statement of what I saw yesterday evening on the lands of Tourreen. In a cabbage garden I saw (as I was informed) the bodies of Kate Barry and her two children very lightly covered with earth, the head and legs of the large body entirely exposed, the flesh completely eaten off by the dogs, the skin and hair of the head lying within a couple yards of the skull, which, when I first threw my eyes upon it, I thought to be part of a horse's tail. Within about thirty yards of the above-mentioned garden, at the opposite side of the road, are two most wretched-looking old houses, with two dead bodies in each, Norry Regan, Tom Barry, Nelly Barry (a little girl), and Charles McCarthy (a little boy), all dead about a fortnight, and not yet interred; Tim Donohoe, Derrig, on the same farm, died on Saturday, his wife and sister, the only people I saw about the cabin, said they had no means to bury him. You will think this very horrid; but were you to witness the state and condition of the dead and dying here at Tourreen, it would be too much for flesh and blood to behold. May the Lord avert, by his gracious interposition, the merited tokens of his displeasure."

I need make no comment on this; but ask, are we living in a portion of the United Kingdom?

ENCLOSURE.

MR. SWANTON to Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP.

Slidderan, February 11, 1847.

I AM in possession of your favour, and sent out direct to the Ballisodub Relief Committee to send for the rice, which will be a very reasonable relief.

I have to thank you for the promptness with which you forwarded the lists; if we were once at work with our large boilers, I would hope, and indeed am sure, that matters would mend.

I would wish to mention to you, as I have written to Sir R. Routh on the subject, that I have now on hand 50 to 100 tons of Indian meal, of prime quality, and about the same quantity of one way and other flour; all of which I must ship if not able to sell here, the demand having very much fallen off, since the Relief Committees are selling here at 2s. 2d. per stone, and in other places at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 5d. per stone indiscriminately; but did not like to send off 3,000l. to 4,000l. worth of meal without acquainting the Commissariat Department of it, as it might save them the cost and expense of sending meal in here, and which may be wanting at a future time, and save the freight to me of shipping it to another market.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 23, 1847.

TRANSMIT to the Relief Commissioners a copy of a letter from Commander Caffin, R.N., Commanding Her Majesty's Steam-sloop "Scourge," furnished to this Board by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and a copy of a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Bishop, with two accompanying papers.

And state that these documents are descriptive of a dreadful state of destitution in the parishes of Skull and Caheragh, in the barony of West Carberry, in the County of Cork, extending to the neglect of the sick, and to the dead remaining unburied.

Their Lordships desire that the Commissioners will direct their attention, without delay, to the state of this district; and that they will take measures for the organization of efficient Relief Committees at the earliest practicable period, in order that food may be provided for the sustenance of the destitute persons in the neighbourhood, as well those who are able to go from their homes to obtain it, as those who are confined at home by sickness.

Also state, that it is their Lordships' wish that the Commissioners should communicate with the Board of Health, with a view to proper measures being immediately adopted to give medical aid to the numerous persons who appear from the documents now sent to be suffering from sickness in the parishes of Skull and Caheragh and other neighbouring parishes, and to the steps being taken which the public health and decency require, to bury the dead in cases in which the surviving relations are unable to perform the last offices.

Mr. WARD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 20, 1847.

I AM commended by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, two letters in original, dated the 18th instant, Nos. 216 and 219, from Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, relative to the proceedings of the relief service on the coast of Ireland.

Their Lordships request that the enclosures may be returned to this office as soon as done with.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 23, 1847.

Return the enclosures to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and request that he will state to the Lords Commissioners that my Lords observe, with much satisfaction, the active and zealous co-operation which is being afforded by all branches of the naval service in connexion with the relief operations in Ireland.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 24, 1847.

THE accompanying, from the British Association on the subject of seed, is deserving of attention.

We continue our purchases in the English market, and have sent out—
[c. 2.] Z

siderable orders abroad; and we trust to you, acting under the directions of the Lord-Lieutenant, to make the best arrangements in your power for disposing of what is sent to you in the manner which will be most for the public advantage. You will observe that Mr. Grey Porter proposes that they should be sold for ready money, in which I entirely concur.

Mr. Erichsen has been directed to purchase a considerable quantity of the best kinds of peas and beans for seed, and I think some have been already sent to you. It is fully understood here that we are not to interfere with grain seed, and the state of opinion against such interference becomes more decided every day.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. CASE to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland,

Committee Room, February 23, 1847.

I TAKE the liberty of enclosing to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Grey Porter to Sir Arthur Brooke, which has been handed to this Committee.

Although the opinion of the Government has been decidedly given upon the subject to which the letter refers, yet it may be well that you should be in possession of the information.

MR. GREY PORTER to SIR ARTHUR BROOKE.

Belleisle, February 18, 1847.

I AM sorry to say that the distress in this country is rapidly increasing, as the people consume their oatmeal of last year, and it will, I fear, be dreadful, even in Fermanagh, in June and July next. I write to beg your attention to a matter of much consequence to our farmers. I mean, of course, the farmers who have not the good fortune to be under Mr. Graham.

The price of carrot and turnip seed is so great that I do not know where the farmers will find money to buy them; or what they will put in the land, with their manure, without them.

Now, could not the Committee of the Central Society (for the relief of distress in Ireland and Scotland), instead of sending over so many pounds of money, send over so many tons, &c., of farm seeds, to be sold by its agents in central towns, like Baniskillen, Clones, &c., for cash, in the month of March.

The Committee, sitting in London, is within reach of all the seed-markets of Belgium, Holland, Jersey, &c., and buying large quantities, could afford to sell them cheap.

It would also thus have all its money still for charitable purposes through the summer. The demand is so great that the seeds would be sold off at once. I am, besides, greatly afraid that a great deal of bad old seed, the refuse and misold stores of former years, will now be brought into the market by the dealers, especially in remote districts, which will be a terrible injury to the poor people at the next harvest, when they will find no crop in their ground.

THE REV. J. O. SULLIVAN, Vicar-General, to MR. TREVELYAN.

Kennare, February, 1847.

BAD as matters were when we left home, they were immeasurably worse on our return. The mortality, the havoc, that death is making among the poor creatures is more than the most hardened can endure; it is calculated to unman, to unnerve, the most obdurate. The cries of starving hundreds that besiege me from morning until night actually ring in my ears during the night, and if God Almighty, in his wisdom, be pleased to continue so heavy a hand on us, the whole face of the land must needs be desolated.

A few days since my curate prepared an unfortunate man, whose wife died of starvation, and at either side of him lay two children, one dead two days, the other some nine or ten hours. I attended myself a poor woman, whose infant, dead two days, lay at the foot of the bed, and four others nearly dead in the same bed; and, horrible to relate, a famished cat got up on the corpse of the poor infant and was about to gnaw it, but for my interference. I could tell you such tales of woe without end; such is not my object. Our common duty is to try and mitigate the evil; to try and propitiate the offended Deity by our exertions for our fellow men; to act instead of criminalizing or talking, and try and help each other out of the difficulty. You were surprised at the quantity of meal and flour consumed here; you could scarcely believe that six tons a day would be necessary for a small place like this, and I have documents to prove to you

that during the three weeks we were absent, no less than 100 tons of meal and flour were imported from Cork and consumed, and there is not at this moment one pound of meal in the town. We have 70 tons purchased in Cork, still working on the original 230*l.*, and until part of that comes by one of Her Majesty's steamers, the country must be in a regular state of famine.

I would then—only I know you are as anxious as we can be ourselves—earnestly request the expediting the store-ship, that we may no longer be subject to the horrible state of suspense we are in at present.

Will you excuse the liberty I take in offering an opinion regarding the new Relief Committees in each electoral district? The most unbiassed and the most unprejudiced are of opinion that they will be productive of the greatest waste, the greatest mischief that was ever heard of, particularly in those districts where not one of education, of principle, or integrity, perhaps, could be found, save the clergymen of each persuasion, who, it is to be feared, may not have resolution enough to bear up against the pressure; and, therefore, I would strongly urge the propriety of leaving the Relief Committees as they are at present, as they certainly are not too large. You must have a certain number to ensure the due administration of the charity. You will find great difficulty in remote parishes in procuring enough to form a check upon some one person of influence.

May I offer another suggestion? Sir Hugh Pigot and his Secretary, Mr. Nicholls, I understand, will have to leave Core by the ensuing May. They will be a great loss to this coast. They are now well acquainted with all its bays and harbours—all its wants and difficulties. It took some time for them, of course, to become so conversant with them. They are both quite alive to our distress. Mr. Nicholls' exertions are of incalculable service, and their successors would be "at sea" for some time at least; and I would therefore respectfully suggest their continuance on the station until after the distress, if it be at all compatible with the rules of the service.

I have left your shores with the greatest respect for the humanity, the kindness, the generosity of your countrymen; and the kind, friendly, considerate reception of two humble individuals, the patience with our importunity, the attention to our wants and to our wishes, were much more than I was prepared for.

Captain STOPFORD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, February 22, 1847.

In some parts of my district the women are employed in spinning and knitting, and a certain sale for what they make would be very advantageous; therefore, if some patterns were sent to me I would set them to work immediately.

In Rosbereva, near Ross, the women make coarse flannel and toweling, and very good stockings. Mr. Elliot Warburton (Crescent and the Cross) is indefatigable in doing good in that neighbourhood, and I should like to see his example followed by more of the country gentlemen.

The new Relief Act is causing considerable alarm to those who do not subscribe to the Relief Funds, who are in the proportion of about six to one of the landed proprietors.

The vessel with Indian meal had not arrived at Ross yesterday, and she sailed from Liverpool on Thursday week the 11th instant.

Indian meal is up again here to 2*s.* 8*d.* a stone.

Captain DUNRY to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Skibbereen, February 22, 1847.

I see to inform you, that though this coast and the coast of Kerry abound with the finest fish in the world, yet the want of proper boats for deep sea-fishing (the few on the coast are badly found), the want of proper tackle, and the want of a ready market to stimulate the people to exertion, and, I fear I may add, a natural indolence, prevent this source of wealth from being turned to some account.

From close observation, I am convinced that if a supply of hemp or flax were sent to this part of Ireland, and indeed from Valentia round the coast of Kerry, and given out to be spun, it would be the means of relieving many

families who are now a burthen on the soup funds for gratuitous relief, and would be a really reproductive work in every way, as the thread would pay for itself, if sold; and, as I have stated, enable many destitute women to pay for food. It is but right to add, that I fear a supply of wheels would be required, the cost of which I suppose would be about 7s. each. Flax is very little grown about this part of Cork, nor has it been for many years, which will account for the want of wheels. Another great object would be gained by giving the women indoor work, as I assure you it is melancholy to see them on the roads, constantly wet, and without a change of clothes. To this I attribute in a great measure the increase of disease; deaths are very numerous, the great majority are old men and women, and children up to 16 years of age; but most certainly the general appearance of the working men and young women is much improved, and I am satisfied that when the soup-kitchens in the remote parishes all at full work, which will almost immediately be the case, things will improve much.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 19, 1847.

IN one of your letters you stated to me that the correspondence and the donations were to be transferred to the new Commission; but there seems to be some doubt whether the Commission can interfere with either, or with any duty not expressly assigned to them by the Act.

For instance, their authority is said to extend only to donations to Electoral Committees formed under the Act, and not to subscriptions raised by the existing Committees; but, I presume, on the promulgation of the Act, these last Committees will cease to have authority.

If these services still remain with me, I have very little time to give to the Commission, as I have no relief from any of these duties, which are pressing upon me.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 22, 1847.

FIRST, let me speak of the Association. Mr. Adams will take charge of all the details of correspondence, which, in reality, I could not, with my other duties, attend to; but I shall still superintend and see how all things are carried out. He cannot with any advantage interfere with the accounts. The consignments of the Association will be entered with our other stores, and at the end of each month Mr. Andoe will draw up from them a statement of the issues and remains, and I shall send a concise memorandum, through you, every week to them.

One thing I must beg of you to propose to the Association, in giving orders for the issue of food, to order quantities, not the value of any particular sum; for instance, to order one or two tons or half tons, but not 15*l.* or 20*l.* worth of food, for the price is constantly varying; and this latter plan makes a very inconvenient fractional issue, breaking bulk. An order is given for 20*l.* worth of food, the price is 19*l.*, or 18*l.* 10*s.*, or any other price per ton, and the fractional part becomes a difficulty, which would be altogether avoided if the Association would adopt the plan of ordering a given quantity to be issued.

The two Mr. Forsters are disposed of; one at Arklow, and one at New Ross; and I wait to hear from them a report of the quantities and qualities under their respective charges.

We shall require a small quantity of salt pork and biscuit, in case of failure in our new contracts (not very unlikely on this occasion), to be in depôt at Athlone and Dublin.

With regard to the 400 tons of meal of various kinds at Plymouth and Portsmouth, it is precisely the quantity we require at Westport, where there is at present a great demand on our depôt, in consequence of disappointments in the trade supplies; and I should be much obliged to you to direct this quantity to be consigned to Assistant Commissary-General Lister.

I think, in your future supplies to Limerick, it would be desirable that you should consign the greater part of your supplies for a time in barley meal and biscuit, as coming less in contact with Messrs. Russell, and more sought after

by the Committees whose funds are too low for the purchase of Indian corn meal.

My correspondence with the Committees since the 1st of September to the 20th of February, amounts to 6805 letters received, and the number written rather exceeds that computation. This is the correspondence of Committees only, not including other branches, and has gone on increasing every month. The first two months it was moderate, but its great volume dates from the middle of November. It does not include any of the correspondence with inspecting officers, Commissariat, or official authorities.

I have been re-perusing, with Mr. Adams and Mr. Andoe, your letter of yesterday about the accounts which you proposed that Mr. Adams should keep; but the increase of labour and detail which this system would produce has induced me to prefer the more simple plan of charging all issues in one account, and preparing the account for the Association at Dublin. We cannot give, in the present state of our operations, to the Association a weekly account, similar to that forwarded to the Treasury. The duties of the officers are so heavy at the outposts that I could not, without risk, increase their details; what with unloading, receiving into magazine, surveys, and daily sales, they have not a moment to spare to keep separate accounts, or make new returns; but we can keep the accounts here in Dublin, and render them *monthly*.

I hope this arrangement will meet your views, and I conclude that it will, and that you only require the thing to be carried out, leaving the detail to me.

I have asked you to send some barley meal to Limerick, in order to try the taste of the public in that quarter for this article, for you will see in the remains a very large quantity of barley meal, 1700 tons, and that it does not sell, whilst they can afford to buy anything else.

Without altogether desisting from it, for its cheapness will obtain favour for it hereafter, I think we had better suspend this supply in any large quantity for a short period, except to Limerick and Sligo, where we have little or none, and a few cargoes there would be desirable to try the effect. That also which is going to Westport will do good as a trial, for they have had none there. I am inclined to propose, whether it might not be advantageous to put it at 14*l*. per ton for a while, though certainly too low for a constancy.

There is a great demand at all the depôts for rice. It would be well to substitute it for a time for barley meal.

Do you intend to do anything in the way of peas and beans for seed? I am constantly asked about it; and in one of your letters you expressed some intention of this kind. Pray let me know.

In looking over our return I perceive the chief quantity of barley meal is at Dublin, and I will send from hence a sufficient supply of that article to Limerick this week, if you will take care of Sligo.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 23, 1847.

I was reflecting last night how I could approach nearer to your views with respect to the Association, and yet combine them with all our other multifarious details: this is the result.

To send you every Monday morning a statement of the four main depôts of the Association—

Dublin,
Athlone,
Arklow,
New Ross.

To receive at Dublin, and forward immediately on their receipt, the accounts of these four stations monthly.

To put the last captain's clerk in charge at Athlone (Mr. Saunders).

Thus they will receive the accounts of these stations immediately at the close of each month, and a weekly report of the issues despatched every Monday.

The other issues would be extracted from our own accounts, and forwarded monthly.

Mr. Saunders will be at Athlone under Mr. Milliken. Mr. Adams will superintend the proceedings of the two Forsters, and we shall see that their accounts, after examination, shall be forwarded at once, as well as those of the Dublin depot relating to the Association. These, being separate depôts, will be thus sent direct, and not included in our general accounts; but the issues made on account of the Association from our other depôts will be extracted, and rendered in one account monthly to the Association.

We all agree here that this is the most simple and clear way of settling this business, and I hope you will be satisfied with it.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTH.

February 25, 1847.

We have made the following arrangements to furnish the further supplies required by you.

One thousand barrels, or about one hundred tons of Indian corn meal, will be shipped to Westport, without delay, from the river.

A hundred tons of barley meal will also be sent from the Thames.

And two hundred tons of Indian corn and barley meal will be sent to the same place from Portsmouth.

A cargo of barley meal will also be sent to Sligo, without delay, from the river.

This will complete the four hundred tons of meal required at Westport, and the cargo of barley meal for Sligo.

A good proportion of biscuits will be put on board each of the vessels to be freighted with the above-mentioned quantities of meal, and this rule will be observed in future in respect to all our cargoes, whether sent by Government or private vessels.

I annex a statement of the cost of the new biscuit manufactured at the Government bakeries, which is, of course, more than you have charged for the old army biscuit, but is the least at which the article can be manufactured. You will see that there is a slight variation in the cost of the biscuit made at Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth respectively, but you will, I presume, charge an average price, which had better be 23s. per cwt.

One hundred quarters of beans, for seed, have been purchased, and will be immediately sent to you by railway, and an equal quantity of pease will shortly follow. If you are likely to require more you must let me know.

We have sent renewed and more pressing orders to Belgium and Holland for all the useful seed that can be got.

You allude, in your letter of the 19th, to the point at which your cognizance of the operations of the Relief Committees in your individual capacity will cease, and that of the Commission will commence.

The simplest and most convenient plan, perhaps, would be for you to continue the correspondence with the Committees as long as they retain their previous organization, and for the Commission to take them up as they become re-organized under the Act; and two things occur to me, as well calculated to facilitate and hasten this desirable change:—first, that two or more electoral divisions should, whenever practicable, be united into one relief district, so as to accommodate the boundaries of the relief districts under the Act to the existing districts, and this would have the further advantage of giving you a greater amount of good agency for each district; and the other is, that no further donations should be made to Relief Committees under the former organization which might be re-organized under the new, but refuse to be so.

It is important to know how far Relief Committees can act through Sub-Committees. My impression is, that they can do so, without difficulty, in the detailed distribution of relief—each member acting for his own or the neighbouring townlands. The example of the Castletown Relief Committee on this point is deserving of attention.

See page 88.

The arrangements you have made with so much care for carrying on the affairs of the British Association, and keeping and rendering their accounts, are entirely satisfactory to us; and although they are not in every respect the same as those which I suggested to you, they will answer our object better than those I recommended.

Mr. Grant, the Storekeeper at Portsmouth, is exerting himself with great

industry and ability to furnish us with large supplies from the Admiralty mills and bakeries.

The Association has been requested to give their orders upon the depôts in quantities, and not in money.

We will attend to what you say about sending rice and biscuit in preference to barley meal, and confining our consignments of the latter for the present to Sligo.

If the barley meal will not sell at its present price, you must somewhat lower it; but it should not be less than 14*l.* 10*s.*, or 14*l.* at the lowest, and this only till it comes into use.

I tasted last night soup made exactly according to Mr. Soyer's receipt, and I thought it very nourishing: it was too thick and substantial for ordinary use at the first course.

It appears to me that the tenor of Captain Potbury's Report has been altogether misunderstood, and that it merely pointed to private retail dealers who had obtained supplies of meal which came originally from our depôts, selling them at an advance of price. If these supplies were originally obtained from the depôts by Relief Committees, and were deposited by them with private dealers for the purpose of being retailed at a moderate advance, the thing is as it should be.

I have ascertained that 7000 female suits might be made up here in a fortnight at the following prices:—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Jacket and petticoat, of serge	8	1
Flannel petticoat, about	3	0
Calico shifts	1	6½
	12	7½

or say 12*s.* 6*d.* for each suit.

I enclose a copy of a note from Captain Groves, the superintendent of Millbank Prison, offering 10,000 suits of female apparel ready to be made up.

As the clothing obtained from the Navy and Ordnance is all for males, it will be necessary to take immediate steps for procuring female clothing for the work-houses.

Pray mention the above particulars to Mr. Redington and Mr. Twisleton, and ascertain through them what the Lord Lieutenant wishes.

ENCLOSURE.

February 23, 1847.

Price of Biscuit made from whole wheaten meal.

At Deptford, from meal which cost 44*s.* 11*d.* per sack of 280 lbs. 20*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

At Portsmouth, from meal which cost 48*s.* 6*d.* per sack of 280 lbs. 22*s.* 6*d.* "

At Plymouth, from meal which cost 48*s.* per sack of 280 lbs. 23*s.* 6*d.* "

Note.—The above is the cost of biscuit at the several ports, exclusive of biscuit bags and freights.

Captain GROVES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Millbank Prison, February 25, 1847.

If time be an object, clothing might be forwarded ready "cut out" and "fitted," with needles and thread, &c., which could be made up in a few hours. 10,000 suits of female clothing might thus be ready for delivery from this prison in a week.

SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 24, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you the accompanying copies of correspondence on the subject of protection to be afforded to the Government supplies on Lough Corrib, and the purchase of the "O'Connell" steam vessel, now lying in the port of Galway, to be employed upon this service; and to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury,

that with reference to the communications made to you hereon by Captain Hamilton this day, and according to instructions received by him from you, Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot has been directed to purchase the "O'Connell" for the relief service on Lough Corrib; the amount of the purchase when completed to be charged to the Treasury for the relief service in Ireland.

ENCLOSURES.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General TRIMMER to Sir R. ROOTH.

Galway, February 9, 1847.

PREVIOUSLY to hearing this (the loss of the boats consigned to Cong), the Commander of the "Bulldog" had called to speak to me respecting a boat for the lake, and said that both he and the Master commanding the "Acheroo" were of opinion that a steamer was the most desirable.

The one in the basin is well suited to the service; she will hold the essent, and when necessary take the boats in tow, and he is coming to-day with the engineer (the second of that department, who happens to be now on board the "Bulldog") and the ship's carpenter to make a minute examination of her. There will be no difficulty, except the want of the necessary tackle, for which application would have to be made to Plymouth to lift her out of the basin, and launch her into the lake, and if I am allowed to promise assistance for this purpose a purchaser may be found.

Sir R. ROOTH to Sir HUGH PIGOT.

Dublin Castle, February 13, 1847.

I submit to you the extract of a letter from the Commissariat Officer in charge at Galway, in regard to the best means of protecting the Government stores on Lough Corrib.

The question involved in the communication relates to the means of transferring a small steamer from Galway harbour to the lake, which appears to be a service requiring the aid of some tackle which can only be obtained from the Naval Arsenal at Plymouth.

There is a purchaser of the steam-boat, who will contract with the Government for its use on the lake. I am told it is to be sold very cheap, but, of course, it is not for this Department to contemplate its purchase; with regard to the tackle, may I request the favour of your advice or assistance?

It appears to me, that it would be particularly satisfactory, if the arrangement to be made were under the authority of the Navy.

Sir HUGH PIGOT to Sir R. ROOTH.

"Myrsinon," at Cork, February 15, 1847.

If the small steamer you describe at Galway be necessary for the relief duties in Lough Corrib, I submit that it should be purchased either by the Treasury or Admiralty.

If by the latter, the vessel should be attached to the "Andromache," as a tender to that ship, and manned and armed accordingly for service on the Lake, in the charge of a competent officer. When done with for the relief service, she will be disposed of to advantage.

Commander Davis, of the "Bulldog," is to give me his opinion on the subject, and in the meantime, as you observe, she is to be sold cheap; I shall be glad to know the sum, that I may submit the matter to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Commander DAVIS to Rear Admiral Sir HUGH PIGOT.

H. M. Steam Ship, "Bulldog".

Cork, February 15, 1847.

HAVING during my late visit to Galway communicated with Mr. Trimmer, Deputy Assistant Commissary-General, on the subject of placing a boat or vessel on Lake Corrib for the purpose of protecting and assisting the country boats in their passages on the lake, when laden with supplies for the distressed population of the neighbourhood—having also perused the correspondence of the Commissariat on the subject, I have the honour to submit the following statement.

1. The necessity for military protection, whereby the country boats would be greatly accelerated, and occasionally, indeed, saved by being towed, is obvious, and no other description of vessel can be so well adapted for these purposes as a steamer.

2. The vessel, called the O'Connell, now lying in Galway floating dock, and for sale, appears to me eminently calculated to answer the required purposes.

I have inspected (in conjunction with M. Densen, engineer, and the carpenter of my ship), her hull and machinery; both appear sound and good.

3. The original cost of the O'Connell (engines included) may have been about 4000.

and probably now, the property being in the Admiralty Court, less than half that sum would buy her.

4. The complement necessary in my opinion to the working of the vessel, and the needful armament, would be as follows, viz., one officer in command; (master's assistant, gunner, or first class petty officer; one third engineer; four seamen; one corporal and six privates, marine artillery, or marines, to work a 12-pounder carronade.—Total complement, 13.

5. The owners of the vessel originally contemplated placing her on Lake Corrib, and have only been prevented by the want of the requisite knowledge how to lift her from the floating docks into a carriage, calculated to convey her through the town to the margin of the lake.

6. On inspecting the locality, I made a plan for doing this, with the means immediately available on the spot, aided by such resources as all Her Majesty's ships possess.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 26, 1847.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty, for the information of the Lords Commissioners, that in assenting to the proposal for the purchase of this small steamer, my Lords were under the impression that the cost was intended to be defrayed from naval funds, and they still think that this is the regular and proper course; the proposal being that the vessel should be attached as a tender to the "Andromache," and that she should be manned and commanded from the navy, and should be employed in the ordinary naval duty of protecting the commerce of the country.

The advance, which will have to be made from naval funds for the purchase of the vessel, may, my Lords observe, be either in whole or in part repaid by its sale, when the service on which she will be employed has been brought to a close.

Transmit a copy of this letter and Minute to Sir R. Routh for his information.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, February 25, 1847.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, a copy of a Report from the officers of Deptford Victualling Yard, showing the difference in favour of the biscuit produced from whole wheaten meal, as compared with that manufactured from equal proportions of whole wheaten meal and barley meal; and I am to request that you will inform me whether the manufacture of biscuit for the relief service shall for the future be limited to that made from whole wheaten meal only.

ENCLOSURE.

*Deptford Victualling Yard,
February 23, 1847.*

SIR,

In obedience to your directions, on the Comptroller of Victualling's letter of yesterday's date, calling for a Report of the weights per bushel of barley, the produce in meal, and whether the quantity of biscuit produced from it when mixed with an equal quantity of whole wheaten meal, would exceed, or fall short of biscuit composed of whole wheaten meal only, we beg leave to state, that the weight of a bushel of barley averages 51 lbs., and produces 40lbs of meal fit for biscuit stuff. The weight of the biscuit which will arise from this meal, and a like quantity of whole wheaten meal, is 79lbs., and the quantity of biscuit which 90 lbs. of whole wheaten meal will produce, is 80lbs., consequently the biscuit produced from meal composed of whole wheaten meal and barley meal, *half and half*, falls short of that from wheaten meal only one pound, or, to put it in a tabular form;

Whole Wheaten Meal.	Barley Meal.	Total.	Biscuit produce.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
90	—	90	80
45	45	90	79

21—difference in favour

of the biscuit produced from whole wheaten meal.

The above statement will prove what we have before advanced, that the saving of expense on biscuit made from whole wheaten meal, with an admixture in equal proportion of meal from inferior grain, as compared with biscuit, the sole produce of whole wheaten meal, would be trifling.

For, taking the price of wheat at 74s. per quarter, and barley at 54s., the former being 60 lbs.

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to the bushel, and the letter 51, the preceding figures thrown into money value, exclusive of labour, which is nearly equal in both cases, will stand thus :

	£.	s.	d.
80lbs. of biscuit, the produce of 90lbs. of whole wheaten meal . .	0	13	10
790bs. do., the produce of 45lbs. of whole wheaten meal, and 45lbs. of barley meal	0	13	8
Difference of price in favour of biscuit produced from whole wheaten meal and barley meal	0	0	2

But this difference vanishes by the over-production of one pound of biscuit made from whole wheaten meal.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) G. F. MORRIS, *Master Attendant.*
JOHN ELLIOT, *Storekeeper.*
EDWARD EDE, *Assist. Storekeeper.*

Captain Superintendent Sir John Hill.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

February 26, 1847.

Write to the Secretary of the Admiralty in reply, and request that he will state to the Lords Commissioners that it appears to my Lords, from the Report of the officers of Deptford Victualling Yard, that it will be advisable that in the manufacture of biscuit in the naval establishments for the relief service, whole wheaten meal only should for the future be used.

Transmit a copy of the Report, and of this Minute, to Sir R. Routh for his information.

MR. HALY to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Committee Room, South Sea House.

February 25, 1847.

I AM desired by the Committee, with respect to the letter from Sir R. Routh to you, presented yesterday, to request that you will explain to Sir Randolph that the Committee cannot order grants of provisions by weight, as they must leave the description of the food to the decision of the officers in charge of the depôts, and to the requirements of the Committees in whose favour those grants are made, and of which the Committee must necessarily be very imperfect judges.

In future, however, the Committee will, in making an order, add the words "or thereabouts;" and thus leave the officers with full power to convert that money amount into any quantity of provisions which is convenient for issue or other requirements, and at the same time appropriate to the amount stated.

This, the Committee trust, will obviate any difficulty.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

February 26, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Sir R. Routh for his information.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 24, 1847.

I ENCLOSE a note from Lord Shannon, to whom I sent a box of yams to make an experiment of, at Castle Martyr, county Cork; and I am distributing them throughout the country, having for my object to ascertain if they can be cultivated as a garden vegetable.

There is a charitable society of ladies in Dublin who are connected with other societies throughout the country, and would undertake anything in regard to the distribution of clothes that might be wished.

ENCLOSURE.

Earl of SHANNON to Sir R. ROUTE.

Castle Martyr, February 21, 1847.

I am to acknowledge your letter of the 19th. The yams have not yet reached me, and as you do not mention how they were sent, I am unable to make inquiry, in case they do not arrive.

I am very anxious to try them, and they shall receive the closest attention.

I fear there is little doubt that the potato crop will be equally (or more) diseased this year, and yet I see considerable preparation throughout the country for them. Should they again fail, the loss of so much land, added to what will surely remain uncultivated from the want of seed and labour, must occasion a very short supply of food in this country.

The yams have just now arrived. I am not quite certain whether it is most advisable to plant them whole (which is the most certain mode with the potato) or cut. You would much oblige me by informing me upon this point.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

February 26, 1847.

It is desirable that we should have an intelligent officer at Londonderry to take charge of the dépôt of the Association, and to obey such orders as he may receive from you.

My impression is, that we should also have an officer in charge of the stores of the Association at each of the four points of Wicklow, Arklow, Wexford, and New Ross, unless it should hereafter clearly appear that one or more of these dépôts are not required.

We will send you more captain's clerks if you require them.

I am apprehensive, from the accompanying answer to an inquiry I made from Professor Lindley, that your experiments in yams will not succeed.

With regard to clothing provided by benevolent persons for distribution in Ireland, my object was confined to ascertaining what assistance we could give to persons who wished to make such gifts, and who have not themselves the means of satisfactorily appropriating them, and this object has been sufficiently attained.

Mr. Erichsen will send you a bale of clothes directed to Mr. Synnot, in the county of Armagh, and I shall be obliged to you to forward it free of expense.

ENCLOSURE.

Professor LINDLEY to Mr. TREVELYAN.

I HAVE written to Lord Shannon as you requested, and enclose you a copy of the letter.

Perhaps you will forward it to Sir R. Route, in order that he may know what answer to give to similar inquiries. The experiment cannot, I think, succeed.

I hear that a very large quantity of "seeds" have been sent to Ireland already by the great London seed houses.

I suppose you know that the yams have been attacked in Jamaica by a disease apparently identical with that of the potato.

Professor LINDLEY to the Earl of SHANNON.

*21, Regent Street, London,
February 26, 1847.*

I AM requested by Mr. Trevelyan to communicate with your Lordship upon the subject of some yams which have been sent to you by Sir Randolph Route.

The edible yam, of which there are several kinds, are tropical plants, requiring a very warm, moist, and, at times, a dry climate for their cultivation. When growing they are extremely impatient of cold; and if they do not rot, will, I fear languish, and fail to thrive, if committed to the open ground in any part of the United Kingdom, without some previous preparation.

Gardeners have failed to make them grow in a greenhouse, and are obliged to treat them as store-plants.

In their natural country they are cut into sets like the potato, and as they must be raised artificially in the first instance in this country, I see no objection to the same process here.

They prefer rich deep vegetable soil, and occupy a considerable space with their long scrambling stems, unless they have bushes or sticks up which to climb.

Your Lordship's course should be to cut them into sets, each having an eye, to have them put in rich earth in a hot-bed, and brought into a good growing state by the time they can be removed from cold at night. Then they may be planted out in a warm border, well sheltered and exposed to the sun. During their growth under glass they should be exposed as much as possible to currents of air, in order to harden them.

It is in this way that the experiment of growing them in the open field in Ireland may be tried, but when I inform you that the French have not succeeded in introducing them into their varied agriculture, and that I cannot find their name among the agricultural productions of Spain, you will scarcely be sanguine about their suiting the climate of Ireland.

I fear it will prove that Ireland is much too cold, as Spain and France, although warm enough perhaps, are, during summer, too dry.

MR. FORSTER TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Wexford, February 22, 1847.

I HAVE since visited Ferns, Coolgreney, and Arklow. Ferns and Coolgreney will, I think, do tolerably well. The first named, Ferns, has one of the best working committees I have met, having a fair mixture of clergy and laity, which leads to a good deal of work, without very much talk. They have also a chairman very much respected by everybody (the Rev. Henry Moore, rector), and a good working secretary (Dr. Taylor); so I should think their proceedings and rules might be taken as a very fair example. Coolgreney Committee was not attended by so many in proportion of the laity. There were six clergymen (five Catholics and one Protestant), and two laymen, which did not work so well. I think it would be a good thing, and save a world of talk, to lay down some plan of organization for the soup lists. The best one hereabouts (of which I have sent a plan to the Committee) is to divide the districts into manageable portions, appropriating to each portion a visitor, the more respectable the better, furnishing each visitor with a number of blank reports as enclosed; then the report would have in each separate case the guarantee of the visitor's name, a different thing to what it is when signed in a lump of two or three dozen names; and also the Committee would again go over the list before granting the relief. Something of this sort is actually wanted to prevent the affair becoming a good private arrangement, by such a process as "Here is my list, let me see yours, and so on;" and by these papers being kept, any suspected case could at any time be gone into again.

The Arklow fishermen are rather at a stand for their nets, &c. I send you a list from Captain Hoare, R.N. They are to some extent in the same plight every spring, but rather worse now than usual, and the advance which would be required (100*l.*, or perhaps somewhat less) would be nearly all, or a good portion of it, repaid from the first batch (the dredgers), and then serve to release the nets, &c., of the trawlers, who will not want them for six weeks or two months; and as the people of Arklow are the worst off (by universal consent) of any in this district, and have complained less—in fact they have many cases of sharp distress—I think the money might be judiciously employed in giving them a start.

It is quite remarkable how little the position of the working classes of England is understood here: what they get per day, what they pay poor's-rate, and what is the price of food, is not at all known, and leads even the most reasonable to think it quite fair that as long as they have any distress, or as long as they can show a case, the money must still fly from England. I think a small book, showing, without much comment, the rates of wages, price of food, poor-rates, and other economical statistics, would save many people here from making unreasonable requests. The staple newspaper argument on the subject always leaves out St. Giles's, and other such parts of London. A simple statement of what is the poor's-rate levied on a London house is not believed, or is looked on as an extreme case.

ENCLOSURE,
VISITORS' REPORT.

No.	
Name,	
Residence,	
Occupation,	
No. in Family,	
Weekly Earnings,	
Relief from other sources,	
We recommend	
Signatures,	
Day of	1847.

HON. S. SPRING RICE to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Committee Room, February 26, 1846.

I AM directed to inform you that the Committee have this day had under their most serious consideration the various difficulties which stand in the way of effecting as rapid a supply of food to the distressed districts of Ireland as is undoubtedly desirable, and as the amount of the funds at their disposal would justify.

The Sub-Committee charged with the purchase of provisions have been instructed to extend their operations to the utmost, limited only by the necessity of avoiding to create any serious action on the food markets. But this limitation is a serious one; and added to the difficulties of shipments, the delays of transit, and the further delays of distribution, very many pressing cases remain unrelieved, even to that partial extent which a private subscription fund can be expected to afford.

Under these circumstances I am directed to press most earnestly on the consideration of Her Majesty's Government the expediency of making the Commissariat and naval stores in England and Ireland available for immediate relief, by permitting issues from them, either on immediate payment from the funds of the Association, or on engagement to replace them with the utmost practicable despatch.

The Committee do not venture to suggest under what limitations this step should be taken, which must mainly depend on the quantity of provisions which are in store. But they feel they should be wanting in their duty to their subscribers, if they failed to suggest every means for making the funds subscribed available at the earliest possible moment for the purpose of relief.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

February 26, 1847.

Write to Mr. Spring Rice that their Lordships have already directed that requisitions of the Committee upon the Limerick depot shall be complied with to the extent of 100 tons a month, and they will now instruct Sir R. Routh to report whether similar accommodation might with safety be given at any other of the Government depôts, and to what extent.

Their Lordships are of opinion that all the issues which may be made from Government depôts on account of the Association should be paid for in money, instead of being replaced in food; it being believed that this course will be the simplest and the most conducive to the regular replenishment of the depôts.

Their Lordships are of opinion that it would not be advisable to transfer to the Committee any of the stores of provisions at their disposal in this country, the meal and biscuits constantly in course of preparation being no more than are required to secure the prompt replacement of the stores in the depôts; and as regards the food procurable in the market, the intervention of this Board is not necessary to enable the Association to obtain what they require.

Transmit copy of this letter and Minute to Sir R. Routh, and desire that he will give his early and careful attention to the subject of it, and report his opinion to this Board.

Captain GIFFARD to MR. TREVELYAN.

Letterkenny, County Donegal,

February 27, 1847.

I HAVE just inspected the parish of Templecrone, including the island of Arranmore. The whole parish and island is the property of the Marquis of Conyngham, with the exception of the glebe.

It contains about 52,000 acres and 10,000 inhabitants, and there are no resident gentry or large farmers. The soil is totally neglected; all are trying to get work on the roads. There are 1578 now employed, and 500 more are to be put on the list. On the wages of these men and women, with the assistance of charitable donations through the Relief Committees, all the population exist, and it barely keeps them from starving. The land appears good, especially in

Arma, but it has never been properly reclaimed or tilled; a plough is never heard of, and vast tracts of land are lying waste which might be brought into cultivation at little expence, while the people are clamorous for food and work. Not a stack is to be seen, the pigs are gone, the cattle and sheep are few, and but skin and bone, and poultry is scarce. The number of poor wretches, starving walking skeletons, is dreadful to witness. I have asked them why, instead of being idle, they do not dig their land, and get but one answer—they have neither food to eat while working, nor seed to put in, which is the case, for they have no person to help them.

The district labours under several evils. The system of tenant-right I think the greatest, as it prevents the landlord forming any large farms, he having to repurchase his own land from the tenant, for the right is considered property, and averages from 5*l.* to 10*l.* per acre of cultivated land, and something less for waste, though at present it might be much lower, but even the men leaving the country will not give up possession without some payment, and their farms are too small to grow grain. The custom of allowing the mountain sheep the run of the country, after the crop is off, prevents any green crops being grown, as they clear all fences. The custom of the country was to live in idleness all the winter, from October to March, as they had nothing to do after the potato was dug. At present there is no seed among them, and if immediate measures are not taken, little or nothing will be grown this year in either Templecrone or Lettermacward, which latter parish is the property of Colonel Conolly, and is not much better off.

Fish are in great abundance on the coast, but the want of good boats, or if they have a boat, the want of sails, oars, lines, and nets, and last, but not least, energy on the part of the people, prevent any quantity from being taken.

The people are a quiet gentle race, and seem to think they must die quietly if not fed, and I fear the priests encourage them in an idea that the Government will find seed and pay them for their labour. Many have to go from 10 to 15 miles to purchase food, for there are no shops.

In fact, the country is quite wild, and I see no plan to adopt but to employ the people in reclaiming the miles of good waste land. I have gone eight miles without sign of living thing.

I believe these two parishes are the worst in my county, but I hear bad accounts from Mevagh, and two or three others which I have not yet visited.

In this neighbourhood they are pretty well off, and the land is well cultivated; in fact, great part of the county is pretty well off.

MR. N. CUNNING TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 24, 1847.

THE last month has been marked only by the steady increase of our general distress. I did hope, ere this, to have been able to report that the splendid efforts of English bounty had presented some perceivable check to its sad progress, or at least arrested the terrible mortality. Such, however, is far from being as yet the case. The distress and misery spread daily wider, and affect in some way or other all classes in the community, if I may except the merchants engaged in the corn trade.

The mortality in the western district of this county continues unabated. This week's reports make it even larger than at any previous time, and those portions of the country which have hitherto been comparatively well off, are now inundated by hordes of wretched objects flying from their still more wretched homes, who bring with them infection and disease; to this cause must be attributed the increasing number of deaths in all the Union workhouses.

It is now, indeed, too manifest, that no supplies of food can prevent the loss of a fearful amount of life. This state of things necessarily acts upon all classes; and the entire earnings of the poor being insufficient to procure food, the country tradesmen, such as tailors, shoemakers, &c., are nearly without employment, and of course destitute, while the shopkeepers are daily going to ruin, as no one of any class thinks of purchasing an article beyond indispensable necessities.

The country being in such deplorable circumstances, it is with grief and shame that I notice the fact, that the bitter spirit of religious animosity, which we did hope was buried, never again to arise, at least with its former virulence,

is once more making its appearance, and in many places thwarting all endeavours to relieve the misery. I am told, that the most shameful scenes have occurred between the clergy at some few of the Relief Committees; but these instances are yet but few, and may possibly be checked by judicious and authoritative interference.

From this gloomy picture I turn to the supply of food; and am happy to say that in this quarter, the importations, both direct and from England, during the past month, have been very large; heavy cargoes of maize continue almost daily to arrive, and I feel persuaded that the stocks of bread stuffs generally are accumulating here to a much larger amount than some of our dealers would have it believed. Prices cannot, however, be quoted as more than a turn below the extreme point yet; they stand as follows, say, Indian corn, by retail, 17*l.* 15*s.* and 18*l.* per ton; Indian meal to 19*l.*; oatmeal, 25*l.*; wheaten meal, 19*l.* to 20*l.* per ton.

Three or four cargoes of seed potatoes have reached here, and are on sale at about 1*s.* 8*d.* per stone, of 14*l*bs.; at this price, seed for an acre would cost 6*l.* at the least, so that even if any large quantity were to be had from this source, no considerable sowing could take place, but I am strongly of opinion that no small amount of seed potatoes, of native growth, still exists in a sound state up and down the country.

Connected with this matter, it is to be remarked, that although much less manure than usual has been made in the country, there is little or no demand for town manure at less than half its ordinary price; all this shows a negligence on the part of even the better sort of farmers, who are generally the purchasers of manure, which causes just alarm for next year; and I fear, that in all parts of the country, much land is likely to remain uncropped.

SIR JOHN BURGOGNE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 23, 1847.

It is now beyond a spirit of idleness and unwillingness to work; there is a *physical incapability*. An engineer in Kerry reports, that with the wretched objects who come to the works, he is ashamed as an engineer of the *smallness* of the task he gives them, and as a man, viewing the condition of the labourers, of the *largeness* of the task.

The extent of the evil creeps on, so as to reach a state beyond what was contemplated by our measures and regulations.

One of our rules will be, that a man holding small quantities of land must not be admitted to gratuitous relief, unless he prepares it for crops; but I expect we shall be met, in very many cases, by declarations, that they are reduced beyond a *capability* of cultivating; and, therefore, if we made the rule too rigid, we should have remonstrances and abuse. I propose, therefore, to adhere to the rule, but to add, that if it is absolutely necessary to admit of any exceptions, it must be on very strong grounds, clearly substantiated and to be explained.

A gentleman of property was with me yesterday, and complained that the people preferred taking 10*d.* on the road works, to 1*s.* 4*d.* he offered them in agricultural labour, preferring the idling on the road.

He admitted at the same time, that they were wretchedly off for provisions for themselves and families. This appeared a most incomprehensible extent of vicious propensity, but I have not a doubt that the poor wretches are incapable of doing the work for the 1*s.* 4*d.*, although by *appearing* and remaining through the day, they can gain their 10*d.*

It is most desirable, and of great importance, to get as many labourers as possible engaged in working for the larger farmers and proprietors in agriculture for wages; those wages should be beyond what the whole family could get by gratuitous relief; and as a ration (tolerable in quantity under the present emergency), can be prepared, if of soup and bread, meal or biscuit, for less than 2*d.*, the wages ought not to be less than 1*s.*, or 10*d.* at least; but it will be only the stoutest that will be able to earn that; and many of those who ought to be the employers will not actually have the money to pay the men; and many that have, will pretend not to have it, in order to obtain the part payment of wages from the relief provisions. This must be strenuously resisted without any compromise; but as it ought to be an excellent speculation even, to cultivate for

the markets, after next crop, it is a pity the farmers could not get advances to pay wages on security of the crops. I do not see how it would be possible for Government to charge itself with such an extensive detail business, but could not the proprietors who are in funds, or bankers, &c., be stimulated to make such advances.

On account of health, of its compactness, keeping qualities, and facility for distribution, I conceive that extensive supplies of biscuit would be far better than so much meal. With soup, something solid to masticate is said to be necessary to prevent diarrhoea, &c., and is more satisfactory to the palate. A four ounce biscuit, with a quart of soup thickened with meal, I consider the best ration that could be given (on the scanty scale). I have tasted cheap kinds of biscuit, with pea flour, &c., mixed up, and they appeared to me to be very good. For what amount per cwt. could the cheapest (good) biscuit be imported here? if not exceeding 18s., and each biscuit to be 4 oz. ($\frac{1}{4}$ lb.) the ration would not amount to 2d. Sir R. Routh tells me he only charged 16s. per cwt. for the store biscuit.

The state of the estates in chancery is a perfect *grievance* at this moment. I enclose a copy of a memorandum I have submitted to the Lord Lieutenant on that subject, and he will consult the Chancellor upon it.

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORANDUM for the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant.

Dublin, February 22, 1847.

It has been represented to me that while alleviation to the present calamitous state of a great part of Ireland, is only to be obtained by the most active, considerate, and liberal proceedings of the landed proprietors, in conjunction with the aid afforded by Government, the vast property in charge of the Court of Chancery generally not only contributes nothing either by subscription or personal services, but is a weight upon its neighbours, and paralyzes all their efforts.

The Rev. — Fetherstone, of Grifflinstown, Kinnegad, a gentleman of property, active, zealous, and an improver on a great scale, mentions the case of his district, where the gentry, clergy, (both of the Established Church and Roman Catholic), and persons of all descriptions are making sacrifices, and working with the greatest activity and harmony, in endeavours to ward off the evil, and to provide for the present wants and future welfare of the district, but are dispirited and weighed down by the incubus of the large property of the Earl of Lanesborough, a lunatic, from which they obtain nothing but a host of neglected paupers.

The agent is away; the sub-agent on the spot considers nothing but his own interest, and it is generally supposed that even if any order could be obtained for affording relief, it would, directly or indirectly, be turned to that sub-agent's own peculiar profit.

Mr. Fetherstone is prepared to make all this evident, but independent of the expense of moving in Chancery, he has no *locus standi*, and would be at once put out of Court as an intruder.

While such is the case, it is notorious that the accumulation of funds in hand from this property is very large, and ought to afford the means of exceeding in doing good rather than the contrary.

It is understood that this is by no means a solitary instance of the effect of the Chancery custody, which in ordinary times was considered as only affecting the good of the properties themselves, but at the present crisis acts as a pestilence over the community.

If testimony to these facts is required, it is said that the assistant-barristers of districts are well aware of them.

Were this charge of property in the hands and under the power of a Government department, the process would be very simple. An inexpensive inquiry would take place in each case; the management would be reorganised, and regulations would be made for the present emergency and for the future arrangements.

The nature of the tenure by the Court of Chancery, no doubt, precludes a possibility of such summary proceedings, but if the Chancellor's attention were turned to the subject, he might, perhaps, be able to devise some degree of remedy, either by his immediate authority or, if necessary, by a legislative measure. One indeed for a more liberal management of estates in chancery was drawn up, I understand, in the shape of a Bill, in consequence of the report of Lord Devon's Commission, but has never been brought into Parliament.

J. F. BURGOYNE.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir J. BURGOYNE.

February 27, 1847.

I HAVE been so incessantly employed in the various arrangements connected with sending additional supplies to Ireland and Scotland, either directly

by means of the Government establishments, or indirectly through the Relief Association, that I have been unable to reply to your letter of the 23rd instant as promptly as I wished. Before entering upon the subject of it, I must mention, by desire of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the intention was that the appointments of Inspecting Officers should be made by your Commission, with the sanction and under the superintendence of the Lord Lieutenant, and words to this effect were intended to be inserted in the Bill. These words have, apparently by accident, been omitted, but it is Sir C. Wood's wish that your Commission should act as if they were inserted, and an official direction to this effect will be addressed to you.

We are not surprised at your Commission requiring, except in extreme cases, that persons holding small quantities of land should not be admitted to gratuitous relief, unless they prepare the land for crops; but the exertions of this class of people have been relaxed by the expectations raised by all that has been said of late about Government providing seed and assisting in cultivating the land, and it is very desirable that, whatever you may put forth on this subject, you should, at the same time, cause it to be clearly understood, that the landlords and farmers have only their own exertions and their own means, or such as they can obtain by borrowing from private parties, to depend upon for the cultivation of their lands.

Biscuits are a very important kind of supply, both on account of their substantial nature and their portability. The Admiralty bakeries are turning them out on a grand scale, of which I will send you a statement, as well as an account of the cost of manufacturing different kinds, and every ship which leaves England with our supplies, takes a large proportion of biscuit.

See pages 121 and 171.

The following from Mr. More O'Ferrall is worth your seeing:—

"We have begun here to feed the children at the schools, which is a great relief to parents who are all employed.

"We can do it with an ounce of rice and oatmeal boiled together with a little sugar, for three farthings per child.

"I think we shall be able to dispense with the new Relief Act."

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTH.

February 27, 1847.

You will receive with regret, and not without some feeling of discouragement, the accompanying copies of correspondence, showing that it is absolutely necessary that Deputy Commissary-General Dobree should be sent with as little delay as possible to Oban, to assist Sir E. Coffin, and to take his place in case Sir Edward's health should fail, which is far from being an improbable contingency.

The Series of Scotch correspondence will show you how improper it is, that the deeply important and critical relief operations relating to that country, should depend on the uninterrupted health of an individual, whose state of health is anything but satisfactory.

You must select the Commissariat Officer whom you consider fittest for the post, and send him to relieve Mr. Dobree; and after Mr. Dobree has made over charge, and has prepared his successor for the duties he will have to perform, he should proceed, without delay, to Oban, by way of Dublin and London, it being considered that the three or four days delay this will occasion, will be more than compensated by the advantage of his conferring with you, ourselves, and the Edinburgh Committee.

In order to give you all the assistance in our power, we have requested Lord Auckland to select from a long list of naval applicants two officers, whom he considers the ablest and best adapted for the service, that they may proceed without delay to Dublin, to place themselves under your orders, to be employed by you in *Commissariat duties*. They will receive the usual allowance of 24s. a-day, and will be entirely at your own disposal, quite independently of the officers employed under the Commission.

These two officers will be in addition to Captain Mercer, who will go to Londonderry to take charge of the dépôt of the Association.

I have ascertained that we could procure in the City, coarse and warm female clothing in large quantities at a short notice, at a cheaper rate than that of which I gave you intelligence a few days ago.

SIR JOHN BURGYNNE TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Preliminary Report of the Relief Commissioners.

*Relief Commission Office, Dublin,
February 27, 1847.*

ALTHOUGH the period is not arrived when the Relief Commissioners are directed by the Treasury Instructions to make their Monthly Report, they have considered that their Lordships might desire to be informed on the course that has been pursued by them up to this period. I therefore beg to report, that the passing of the Act under which our proceedings are to be regulated not having yet been notified to us, no substantial acts for its execution could be performed; consequently our attention has been exclusively occupied with the preparation of the means for organizing the very extensive operations regulated by the measure, of which we have reason to believe the Bill explains the nature of the different provisions with sufficient accuracy.

The first matter to be attended to, was the nomination of the Finance Committees for each Union, and of Relief Committees for the electoral divisions.

For this purpose we have obtained from the Commissioners of Poor Law, through their Assistant Commissioners, lists of the principal residents in each Union, and from the clerks of the Unions, lists of the principal lessors and principal rate-payers in the several electoral divisions; also of the occupiers of 200 acres of land or more, valued at 100*l.* per annum or upwards. We are also in possession of lists of the clergy of the different persuasions.

These lists will form the basis of a selection of members for the Committees, and are now being abstracted for the purpose of being submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, with any recommendations we may have the means of offering.

With regard to the Finance Committees, there does not appear to be much difficulty in selecting four names for each Union, of gentlemen who, from station in the district and character, will be likely to undertake the office; but for the electoral divisions (2049 in number), the case is different; and the difficulty of procuring an efficient Committee for each, composed of members competent, worthy, and of sufficient station, is such, that after many endeavours, we have been able to adopt only a few very general principles, and have been obliged to abandon any very precise classification, that would meet even a majority of cases; so that there is no alternative but to look to a specific nomination in each case of the persons who will be most interested in the welfare of these districts, and who shall be most recommended for the trust.

In order to obtain as much information on this head as possible, we have distributed very extensively a number of printed queries (of which a copy is enclosed), to which we have solicited answers, and when obtained they are collected by Unions.

With a view to the examination of these materials in the localities, and for preparing for the various arrangements to be made, we then proceeded to appoint Inspectors of Districts, one to each Union, in the first instance; they have been selected up to this time almost exclusively from the officers that have hitherto been employed under the Commissariat Relief Office and the Board of Works, according to your Treasury Instructions of the 10th February.

Eighty-one of these officers have been nominated to as many Unions, filling up as much as possible at first those of the West and South-Western Counties, where the distress is apparently greatest, and the social system for providing for it most difficult of arrangement.

These officers will be each of them furnished with a copy of the Bill (at present, and subsequently of the Act), a map of the Union, showing the names and boundaries of all the electoral divisions, many of which are prepared under orders from us, and the rest will be furnished without delay, and several papers that explain the views of the Government.

They are desired to proceed at once to their destination (most of them are already on or near the spot), and their present instructions are, by means of the various lists and recommendations above described, and by inquiries in the district,

to propose an organization that shall appear to them most applicable to meet the object with effect.

Where difficulties shall arise to the formation of a proper Committee in any division, they are instructed to suggest, under the best local advice they can obtain, any remedy they can offer to meet the case; all of which will be submitted to the Lord Lieutenant.

We are now engaged in preparing the necessary instructions and forms for the guidance of the District Committees, and of the Government Inspectors, which we shall have ready for issue as soon as any of the Committees can be appointed.

No time shall be lost in pursuing the necessary proceedings for bringing the new measure as early as possible into operation; but I can assure their Lordships, that the machinery to be arranged and organized is vast and exceedingly complicated.

ENCLOSURE.

(Confidential).

*Relief Commission Office, Castle, Dublin,
February 15, 1847.*

As, in carrying into effect the new Relief measure now before Parliament, there will be much difficulty in the nomination of individuals properly qualified for the Finance and Electoral Committees, your opinion is requested as to how it can be best done, within the greatest extent of district on which it is in your power to advise.

1. Who are the justices resident in each electoral district, and are they likely to be active members of the Committees?

2. Whether it would be advisable to attach two or more electoral districts under one Relief Committee, in consequence of the difficulty there may be in finding well qualified persons in each; and if so, which of them should be so combined?

It must be understood that however so combined, the accounts for the funds to be provided, and the issues made, must be kept distinct for each electoral district.

3. Whether any uniform principle for the nomination of individuals for the Committees could be adopted, and if not, who are the individuals (likely to be willing to serve) to be recommended for each, in addition to the *ex-officio* members, and what are their stations and qualities?

4. It would be very desirable to have one Protestant and one Catholic clergyman in each Committee. Would there be any objection to that arrangement, or to the respective body of clergy of each persuasion, where they are numerous, being allowed to select the individuals from among themselves, and if there would, what individual clergyman would it be advisable to select?

5. It would not be desirable to make the Electoral Committees more numerous than necessary to secure a regular meeting of a quorum of, say three on each day.

6. Would any of the suggestions made in compliance with these propositions be likely to lead to dissatisfaction and complaints on the part of any great body in the district, or could they be easily justified?

7. Where the existing Relief Committees are working zealously and well, it would be desirable to introduce them bodily or personally, as much as possible into the new organization, as well on account of their experience and the machinery they have raised, as for the transfer of their funds, and to avoid giving dissatisfaction.

8. In towns, especially those of considerable population, the Committees will probably require a different organization from those of the agricultural districts, and may, perhaps, be founded in a great degree upon the existing Relief Committees; but in all cases the boundaries of their operations must be altered, so as to conform to those of electoral divisions.

9. Add any other suggestions that may occur to you for the better organization of the Electoral District Committees.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 1, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Weekly Return of the Commissariat Depôts in Ireland; and also a statement of the amount of donations and of the sums subscribed up to the 27th ultimo.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS, &c., in the several Depôts in Ireland, showing the Issues during that period, and the Remains on Saturday, the 27th of February, 1847.

Depôt.	In Quarters of Eight Bushels each.				Cats. of Salt.				In Sacks of Eight Bushels each.				In Sacks of Eight Bushels each.				Bags of Wheat of 112 lbs. each.	
	Indian Corn.		Sacks of Rice.		Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.
	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.														
Limerick	..	869	..	..	..	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257
Clon Castle	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kilrush	..	125	..	220	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Modaguan (Tombert)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Doyle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cahircross, No returns.	..	66	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kearney.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cashelmore.	..	..	..	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Skull. No returns.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shibbown	..	..	24	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Galway	25	7,417	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cong	..	160	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clifton	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Weyport	..	1,899	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belmullet	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Durport	12	191	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saga	..	3,372	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bellina	..	751	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killybegs	79	150	..	..	..	383	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barrobert. No returns.	..	314	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunfinghy	24	313	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bunbeg	71	148	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dublin	..	895	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Banagher	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brookstown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cashelmore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rescomman	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CarrickmacShann.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In transit to depôts.	..	..	..	..	..	299	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	1894	16,319	24	354	31	1,1994	2	106	29,558	5,066	357	18,305	24	1,299	448	2,954	..	..

To depôts:—434 sacks of Indian meal; 65 sacks of barley meal. To depôts:—40 sacks of Indian meal.

"Adventure" not as yet reported to have arrived. Remains on 20th February.

To depôts:—240 sacks of Indian meal.

To Dundahugh:—608 sacks Indian meal. To depôts:—299 qrs. of peas; 147 sacks of barley meal.

Remains on 20th February.

To depôts:—1,282 sacks barley meal.

RECAPITULATION OF REMAINS on the 27th February, 1847.

16,519	quarters Indian corn, at 5 quarters per ton, are equal to .	3,203 $\frac{1}{2}$	tons.
1,180 $\frac{1}{2}$	quarters of peas, at 5 quarters per ton, are equal to .	237 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
29,538	sacks of Indian corn meal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to .	3,692 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
1,929	sacks of wheaten meal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to .	203 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
18,305	sacks of barley meal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to .	2,288 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
1,299	sacks of oatmeal, at 8 sacks per ton, are equal to .	162 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
2,934	bags of biscuit, at 20 sacks per ton, are equal to .	146 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
324	bags of rice, weight not given.		

Total Remains . . 10,034 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

ISSUES DURING THE WEEK.

189 $\frac{1}{2}$	quarters of Indian corn, equal to . . .	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	tons.
11	quarters of peas, equal to . . .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
5,086	sacks of Indian corn meal, equal to . . .	635 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
268	sacks of wheaten meal, equal to . . .	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
337	sacks of barley meal, equal to . . .	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
24	sacks of oatmeal, equal to . . .	3	"
448	bags of biscuit, equal to . . .	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
24	bags of rice, weight not given.		

Total Issues . . 776 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

The Castle, Dublin, March 1, 1847.

R. J. ROYD, Commissary-General.

DONATIONS authorized to be issued by his Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT in aid of SUBSCRIPTIONS raised by Relief Committees in Ireland, up to the 27th February, 1847.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donations.		Subscriptions.	
		£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
1847.					
Feb. 24 .	Dunleer district, county Louth	155	0 0	155	2 0
"	Bellinacorney district, county Louth	342	0 0	342	10 6
"	Glasnevin district, county Dublin	38	0 0	38	3 6
"	Saul district, county Down	34	0 0	34	0 0
"	Rastrevan district, county Down	257	0 0	257	15 8
"	Seaford district, county Down	50	0 0	50	10 0
"	Ballymurphy district, county Carlow	51	0 0	51	0 0
"	Rathoe district, county Carlow	102	0 0	102	10 0
"	Kildarion district, county Armagh	93	0 0	93	3 6
"	Tullow district, county Carlow	317	0 0	317	8 6
"	Bellinapark district, county Cork	36	0 0	36	0 0
"	Aghasomshin district, county Donegal	42	0 0	42	15 0
"	Kilnacrenan district, county Donegal	475	0 0	475	6 0
"	Torlough district, county Mayo	51	0 0	51	9 6
"	Killala district, county Mayo	160	0 0	160	0 0
"	Rathclive district, county Longford	93	0 0	93	12 6
"	Kilmoghan district, county Galway	80	0 0	80	0 0
Feb. 25 .	Rathmales district, county Dublin	244	0 0	244	8 11
"	Rathcoale district, county Dublin	127	0 0	127	0 0
"	Johnstown district, county Kildare	219	0 0	219	5 6
"	Bellen district, county Kilkenny	61	0 0	64	2 0
"	Burnchurch district, county Kilkenny	85	0 0	85	10 0
"	Castleblennet district, county Kildare	51	0 0	51	18 0
"	Ballymore Eastlake district, county Kildare	100	0 0	100	2 9
"	Monkstown district, county Meath	84	0 0	84	10 0
"	Costerickard district, county Meath	5	0 0	5	17 0
"	Kells district, county Meath	265	0 0	265	0 0
"	Glasheen district, county Westmeath	360	0 0	352	14 8
"	Castleown district, county Westmeath	268	0 0	268	15 0
"	Charlemont district, county Armagh	35	0 0	35	0 0
"	Clare district, county Armagh	87	0 0	87	7 8
"	Emet district, county Monaghan	190	0 0	190	3 0
"	Castleblaney district, county Monaghan	37	0 0	37	10 0
"	Claneblurt district, county Monaghan	126	0 0	126	18 6
"	Clones district, county Monaghan	228	0 0	228	10 0
"	Omagh district, county Tyrone	223	0 0	225	5 5
"	Carrickmore district, county Tyrone	112	0 0	112	10 0
"	Dungannon district, county Wicklow	102	0 0	102	18 0
"	Kilkeatin district, county Wexford	123	0 0	123	0 0
"	Ballyellin district, county Carlow	191	0 0	191	9 0
"	Parsonstown district, King's county	200	0 0	221	3 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Virginia district, county Cavan	31	0 0	31	0 0
"	Moill district, county Leitrim	83	0 0	83	19 0
"	Ardagh district, county Longford	139	0 0	139	17 6

Donations, &c.—continued.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1847.							
Feb. 25.	Carriek-on-Sair district, county Tipperary	252	0	0	252	12	5
"	Newmarket-up-Fergus district, county Clare	162	0	0	162	5	0
"	Carriekbeg district, county Waterford	25	0	0	18	9	6
"	Kilbalea district, county Cork	79	0	0	79	0	0
"	Deontariffe district, county Cork	220	0	0	220	11	6
"	Ballyshah district, county Cork	100	0	0	76	2	4
"	Monixas district, county Galway	109	0	0	120	0	0
"	Arus district, county Galway	54	0	0	54	8	10
"	Headford district, county Galway	300	0	0	381	4	1
"	Kilcreen district, county Galway	25	0	0	30	11	0
"	Claremorris district, county Mayo	122	0	0	122	2	0
"	Ballyglass district, county Mayo	20	0	0	68	10	0
"	Skreen district, county Sligo	53	0	0	53	0	0
"	Raphoe district, county Donegal	215	0	0	249	1	6
Feb. 26.	Lucan district, county Dublin	50	0	0	43	11	6
"	Castlebellingham district, county Louth	229	0	0	229	13	0
"	Castlebellingham district, county Louth	115	0	0	115	10	0
"	Castlebellingham district, county Louth	197	0	0	197	5	6
"	Doneghmore district, county Down	245	0	0	245	13	4
"	Kernan district, county Antrim	209	0	0	209	13	0
"	Bugabstown district, county Carlow	180	0	0	180	3	8
"	Ardrath district, county Meath	187	0	0	187	10	0
"	Kilbree, &c., district, county Meath	152	0	0	182	5	0
"	Dubona, &c., district, county Meath	115	0	0	115	12	9½
"	Ballyhogan district, county Meath	125	0	0	125	15	6
"	Ratoath district, county Meath	208	0	0	208	15	0
"	Kells district, county Meath	49	0	0	49	18	10
"	Rahon district, Queen's county	115	0	0	115	11	0
"	Blackroth district, county Kilkenny	211	0	0	211	0	8
"	Hortown, &c., district, county Wexford	20	0	0	20	6	8
"	Barracoughy district, county Wexford	789	0	0	789	18	6
"	Dough district, county Kerry	194	0	0	194	5	7
"	Knockane district, county Kerry	94	0	0	94	0	0
"	Ballykead district, county Cork	186	0	0	188	0	0
"	Ballynakill district, county Galway	119	0	0	119	5	0
"	Woodford district, county Galway	86	0	0	85	0	0
"	Easky district, county Sligo	74	0	0	74	10	0
"	Killybeggan district, county Donegal	241	0	0	241	0	0
Feb. 27.	Ballydoona district, Queen's county	400	0	0	400	5	0
	Authorized during the week	12,674	0	0	12,903	4	1
	Previously authorized	79,421	16	0	87,199	12	9½
	Total	92,095	16	0	100,105	16	10½

R. J. ROYCE, Commissary General.

The Castle, Dublin, March 1, 1847.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 2, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a letter from Admiral Sir John West at Devonport, dated the 1st instant, No. 208, relative to the equipment of the "Tyne" and "Portland" to receive meal; and I am to acquaint you that the "Tyne" was equipped in 17 working hours, and that that time would scarcely have been exceeded in completing the "Portland," had not the work on her been partially interrupted by an Admiralty order.

ENCLOSURE.

Admiral Sir J. West to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

"Queen," in Harwich, March 1, 1847.

WITH reference to my daily Report of this date, I have the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's ship "Tyne" will have been completed with a cargo of meal (about 2500 sacks) this evening, and will proceed to Cork early to-morrow-morning, in charge of Mr. Brown, Master of the "Caledonia," and a crew from the "Queen."

The "Portland" will bend sails this evening and, weather permitting, will proceed to Portsmouth to-morrow at noon, in charge of Commander Schomburg, and a crew from the "Queen," consisting of 140 officers and men.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 2, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that Her Majesty's sloop "Scourge" sailed from Liverpool at noon yesterday, with 147 tons of provisions on board, supplied by the Relief Society of Friends, and accompanied by a supercargo.

The Rev. G. GOULD to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*10, Friar's Walk, Exeter,
March 2, 1847.*

A SOCIETY of ladies in this city have been very actively employed in making articles of clothing for the destitute Irish, which they have forwarded to Committees in Dublin. They have had the satisfaction to send nearly 1000 new articles, in addition to parcels of second-hand clothes; and they are now busily occupied in preparing further lots, to be sent as before.

They have had laid before them a copy of a letter written by you to R. Ball, Esq., dated 18th January, 1847, from which they have drawn the conclusion, that the Government undertake the conveyance, freight free, of English bounty to Ireland.

See page 17.

They have, therefore, requested me to transmit to you the enclosed receipt for freight of the packages already sent, in the confident persuasion that if in thus addressing you any mistake be committed, the occasion will plead their apology.

They desire me to say that they would not apply for so trifling a sum as the enclosed freight, but that they are desirous to add it to their funds, and thus increase the quantity of clothes to be sent hereafter.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the Rev. G. GOULD.

Treasury, March 3, 1847.

No retrospective payments have been made of the kind you allude to; but if the Society of ladies at Exeter, who are engaged in the charitable work of making clothes for the destitute Irish, will cause an account to be sent to me, properly certified, of any expenses they may incur for the conveyance of any further quantities of clothing they may send to Ireland, the amount shall be duly paid.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

February 23, 1847.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has expressed a wish that a dépôt should be established at Enniskillen or some other suitable place on Lough Erne, as has been already done at Cong on Lough Corrib.

We are getting strong in our supplies. The Admiralty mills and bakeries together, turn out great quantities daily, besides all the other resources at our disposal, while the total issues do not, as yet, exceed 500 tons a-week.

If, therefore, you think we could venture upon it, and it is in other respects unobjectionable, we might avail ourselves of the navigation of Lough Erne, and push our supplies into the interior in that quarter from the western coast.

The ground on which the subject has been pressed on Lord John Russell, is, that if food were provided, the farmers would be able to save their seed, and if it is practicable and safe, it may be desirable to take this step, both on this and on other grounds.

The Admiralty have been authorised to buy a small steamer now at Galway for 400*l.* to supply your dépôt at Cong after she has been conveyed across the isthmus and re-launched on Lough Corrib.

Note.—In the week ending Saturday the 27th February, they amounted to 576 tons.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 25, 1847.

I MAKE due note of your wishes about Enniskillen. The only way we could supply a dépôt at that place would be from Belfast or Newry, and the

first would be the most convenient. It could not be supplied from Ballyshannon on the west side, where there is a bar at the mouth of the harbour inaccessible sometimes for a month together. You are aware that I propose to place an assistant at Belfast for the army service, which would facilitate this plan. The distances are as follow :—

	<i>Miles statute.</i>
Belfast to Portadown by railroad	26
By canal to Wattle bridge	50
By steamer to Enniskillen	25
	— 101

We ought to have a man at Portadown and another at Wattle bridge, to superintend the transshipment, and see there is no delay, and an officer in charge at Enniskillen.

I think the plan a good one, and I am ready to give my best exertions to carry it out.

I believe on the canals here, there is a want of canal boats, and a difficulty of freight between Portadown and Wattle bridge, but I dare to say we shall get our fair share of it, and our being there may encourage competition.

A constable at the two intermediate places would do, but we ought to have a good officer at Enniskillen.

In regard to the green crop seed now in store, I think in most instances, people will pay for it at once, and as I am not *an fait* of the system of weighing it out in small quantities, and the Lord Lieutenant objects to its leaving our charge, or being confided to a seedsman, I am looking out for a practical man who understands the business, to make the deliveries. It will be a mere temporary employment, and I shall only take a person bred up in the trade.

I hope, if I have time, to add some valuable matter to the cheap food pamphlet.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, February 27, 1847.

I APPRISE you of the intention of the British Association, as notified to me by Messrs. Jones, Mann, and Forster, of Liverpool, to consign to the Commissariat officer at Londonderry, by the "George Harper," 1,000 barrels of Indian corn meal, which they calculated, with the freight of 1s. 4d. per barrel and all charges delivered at Londonderry, to be about 35s. 6d. per barrel.

This cargo arrived on the 25th inst., and I am advised of it by Captain Dill, of the Royal Engineers, who has found storage for the barrels in the Custom-house store-houses.

I also received this morning advice of the arrival at Dungarvan of the schooner "Mary," Reynolds, master, with a cargo of peas, Indian corn meal, rice, and nine tons of biscuit, consigned to the Commissariat by Mr. Hilliar, of Bristol, on behalf of the British Association.

I find that the Association have appointed Captain Hoare, R.N., their agent at Arklow, and advised a cargo to him. Mr. J. T. Forster is therefore unnecessary there, and I write to him to proceed to Dungarvan, and dispose of the cargo of the "Mary," storing it, and selling to Committees at the invoice prices, if there is an invoice, and if not, at our prices.

All this is subject to such further advices as I may receive.

I have received forty bundles of clothing from the Association, and I am informed that it is not new clothing, nor in bales, but tied up in bundles.

I remark all your arrangements about seed, on which I have not been able to see the Lord Lieutenant to-day, and I shall write to you on the subject on Monday.

I understand all the green crop seed is to be sold only for cash. The peas and beans will be very thankfully received.

Several of the principal seedsman have been with me to-day. They are alarmed at our interference, and came to ask my advice if they should stop their own importations.

I am sure we cannot interfere much, with advantage; we must only be an auxiliary.

I have written to Mr. Grant. The sample of soup jelly sent by Mr. Gelston,

was very good, but that which came in the barrel was spoiled. It is difficult to anticipate how the people will receive these things, but I am always ready to make the trial in the best way in my power.

I think we shall get on with the barley meal without any reduction of price. We must give them a little time for every new thing.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 1, 1847.

I HAVE your letters of the 26th and 27th ultimo.

I annex a copy of a letter received this morning from the admiral, in regard to the "Adventure."

I had also a letter yesterday, from Messrs Jones, Mann, and Forster, from Liverpool, stating that they had shipped 500 barrels of Indian corn meal by the "Sea-King" steamer, consigned to me at Belfast, and that on Wednesday next, they would ship a further quantity of 572 barrels by her next trip.

You are aware that I have no person there to receive this consignment, and I beg you will detach a Captain's clerk to that post. By a letter received from Mr. Spring Rice, he says he wishes this consignment to be reshipped to Belturbet.

Professor Lindley's report is not very encouraging. Although the yam can never come into general field use, I thought that it might perhaps be made a garden vegetable. At all events, as Mr. Knowles has sent me the barrel, I shall try it far and wide.

I now come to the most important part of your letter of the 27th.

With respect to the transfer of Mr. Dobree to Oban, to join Sir E. Coffin, I feel all the necessity of the case, and though I feel also the loss I shall experience, and the interruption to a course of duty now brought by dint of a long correspondence into order and regularity, I do not see any other way by which you could sufficiently meet the exigency in Scotland. I therefore cheerfully submit to it, and I write to Mr. Dobree by this day's post, to bring all his accounts up to the end of February, to a close, and on Wednesday I shall send Assistant Commissary-General Adams to relieve him.

Mr. Adams will be a loss here, for I counted upon him for some assistance in my own duties and also to put the army arrangements on a good footing at the commencement.

ENCLOSURE.

Rear-Admiral PEOPE to SIR R. ROUTH.

"Crossedile," at Cork, February 27, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you of the arrival of Her Majesty's brigantine "Cockatrice" at Cork, having on board 95 coppers and boilers of various sizes, which are now in course of landing at Hassibowline.

The "Odin" has been detained in putting to sea this morning from the violence of the gale, and I have received their Lordships' orders to direct Captain Williams to land a part of her cargo at Kenmare, if it should be found necessary. I have only to observe, that the "Blazer" arrived at Kenmare on Thursday last, with 40 tons of meal for the Relief Committee; and I have now 500 more sacks to send round.

The "Adventure" I hope to have ready by the end of the week to proceed to Kenmare.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 1, 1847.

I FIND by a letter just received, that Mr. Forster, at Wexford, notifies an arrival of 800 barrels of Indian corn meal, on account of the British Association, per "Lucinda Jane."

Mr. Forster having this cargo in hand at Wexford cannot proceed to New Ross, where he tells me the "Lady Florence" has arrived, also with a cargo of Indian corn meal.

I have no advice from Captain Stopford, and as all my inspecting officers are transferred to the Commission, and are organizing their districts, I shall not probably hear from him.

There are 43 bundles, each tied across with a rope, of old clothing sent to me here by the Association. Am I to understand that I am at liberty to dispose of them?

The misery in Dublin is becoming very great, and such a distribution (gratuitous), made through the medium of the clergy, would be of the greatest advantage and assistance.

Will you be good enough to obtain for me an answer to this question?

I will furnish you with an account of the distribution from the parties. It would be most desirable to issue it whilst the weather is cold and raw.

The unfortunate creatures in Keenare, Sneem, and other districts, who at the best of times have only one daily meal, and that of potatoes, having lost these, are in a most pitiable state; scarcely able to work, and with no means to purchase; nominal owners of a little slip of land that has produced nothing, earning nothing, and with no support to look up to, or forsaken by those who should support them; it is scarcely possible, with so many women and children amongst them, to imagine a more distressing picture.

In the common ratio of progress, a scarcity must go on increasing, and the means of meeting it ought to be in proportion greater.

I am glad to say that the barley meal, by this week's advices, is gaining ground and succeeding; there is no necessity of reducing our price.

We have had an awkward affair here with a cargo from Leghorn, per "Beacon," and consigned to Dublin, and, as we supposed, exclusively to us; but it appears there was another consignee, of whom the Captain did not apprise us, for something more than half the cargo; and before we were aware the Captain landed the whole cargo into our stores. The other consignee was Messrs. Henry Thomas Walsh and Co.; they have agreed to hand over to us the whole cargo at 2s. per quarter under the Dublin price; the quality is exceedingly good and in capital order, and I think this is the best way of settling it, as the expenses incurred are very difficult to divide amicably.

These people would not wait the return of the post, and I was obliged to decide, which I did in the affirmative, as the best course to be pursued.

I have sent the papers to Mr. Erichsen, that he may settle with the parties; all of which I trust you will approve.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUGH.

March 3, 1847.

I now proceed to answer your letters of the 25th and 27th ultimo, and your two letters of the 1st of March.

The appointment of an Assistant Commissary-General to Belfast, comes very opportunely in aid of the establishment of the Enniskillen dépôt.

Your ready acquiescence in the necessity of Mr. Dobree's being transferred to Scotland, is honourable to you.

The course taken by us to strengthen your hands in the management of your own department, is to place at your disposal the fittest agents we can obtain, and to leave you to make the best distribution of them in your power, as well as of the officers already under your orders.

The additional assistance which is being given you to enable you to carry on our affairs, and those of the Association, is as follows:

Captain Mercer, now on his way to Londonderry.

Captain Knox, who will set out to-night.

Captain Lapidge.

An experienced printer, whom I have requested Captain Hamilton to furnish, and a gentleman of ability and experience, named Daniell, who will be sent in the capacity of a temporary clerk.

As the gentlemen who manage the affairs of the Relief Association give their gratuitous assistance, and great public advantages are obtained from their coming forward on the occasion, we shall not grudge any exertion we may have to make to support and assist their operations.

No doubt, you decided rightly about the half cargo of the "Beacon." In similar cases, we have accepted of similar offers, and in others we have rejected them, accordingly as we required the article at the price offered, or not.

The refusal of your letters has so impressed us with the necessity of your having at your command a sufficient number of persons accustomed to the care of stores, and fit to be trusted with the charge of them in detached situations, that I have requested Captain Hamilton to select another purser or captain's clerk, who will be directed to join you without delay.

It is becoming every day more apparent that the stock of seed grain is decidedly short, not only for Irish and Scotch, but also for English farmers, and what there is, is held at extravagant prices, which will soon become more extravagant. In this state of things, it would be a great injustice for the Government to go into the market, to the detriment of those who have to employ their own means in providing themselves with seed; and if the object be to make an insufficient stock go as far as possible, there is no way in which this can be accomplished better than by leaving those to get it who, by coming forward to buy it at the present high prices, give the best proof of their disposition and ability to make the most of it.

As regards seed oats, which is the article most pressed for, England does not grow oats enough for her own consumption, and London, Liverpool, Manchester, and other large towns draw their principal supply from Ireland and Scotland. The quantity of oats that could be obtained for seed in this country is, consequently, very insignificant; and if the Government were to commence purchasing in the Scotch and Irish markets, the price would immediately rise, and the difficulty experienced in obtaining seed would be increased.

There is a certain stock of oats for seed in these markets. This stock we cannot add to by any means in our power; and the only result of the Government attempting to act upon it, would be, that it would be rendered dearer, and therefore less available to those who are disposed to purchase on their own account; and that a portion of it would be transferred from a class of persons likely to make good use of it, to another less likely to do so.

Any practicable facility should be given to individuals interested in the success of the cultivation in Ireland, and in the distressed districts of Scotland, to provide themselves with seed from their own means; and with this view, every application which is made at this office for assistance in the conveyance of seed to Ireland is immediately complied with, and it is sent either direct by steam-boat to the nearest port in Ireland, or by railroad to Liverpool—thence by steam-boat to Dublin, and thence, under your superintendence, to the place of its final destination.

The arrangements which have been sanctioned by the Lord Lieutenant, although not entirely in accordance with the above view, form as slight an exception from it as is consistent with any interference on the part of the Government; and those arrangements have been made so as to combine as much public advantage as possible, with the smallest degree of interference with the ordinary trade.

We understand them to be as follows:—

Our interference to be confined entirely to vegetable and green crop seed.

As much as possible of the seed of this description to be obtained from abroad.

The seed to be sold at cost price, with a reasonable addition for the expense of carriage, &c., and for ready money, without either any advances being made or credit being given.

You will sell the seed either through the agency of one of the established tradesmen in this line, or by employing an experienced person under your immediate superintendence, as may be found most desirable.

I have directed Mr. Erichsen to give every possible facility by annexing detailed descriptions to the packages, including the time for sowing and other useful particulars.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, March 1, 1847.

You will receive herewith a copy of a letter from our engineer at Kenmare, which gives a distressing account of the state of the people in that neighbourhood, and I wish it were possible to say that the same misery and destitution did not prevail in many other parts of Ireland. Deaths are daily

increasing, and the inability of the people to walk, much more to work, renders them incapable of exertion to earn a full day's pay; and I believe, and it would be useless to disguise it, that the major part of the large sums we expend weekly is not for work performed, but for the actual existence of a portion of the people.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. GILL to Mr. RUSSELL.

Keenare, February 25, 1847.

This neighbourhood is becoming depopulated with railway speed. I see nothing within the bounds of possibility that can save the people. On one road, on which I have 500 men employed, the deaths are three each day. This is in the parish of Looeist. The people are buried without coffins, frequently in the next field. No noise or sign of grief for the dead; every thought is selfish and unfeeling. No man looks beyond to-morrow, or to any but himself; every person appears jealous and suspicious of his fellow.

I daily witness the most terrible spectacles. Men and women are discoloured with dropsy, attacked with dysentery, or mad with fever, on the works—driven there by the terrible necessity of trying to get as much as would purchase a meal. Imagine these creatures surrounding me on the several works to get employment or more wages, and you will see the serious risks I run of contracting disease, or being sacrificed to their fury. With most of these working is a mockery; they can scarcely walk to and from the roads, and how can they work! Better far keep them in their wretched hordes, and pay them for staying there, than ask them to expose themselves during the day on the side of a mountain.

When a respectable person passes the houses of these poor people, the saddest sights present themselves; women, children, and old men crawling out on all fours, perhaps from beside a corpse, to crave a morsel of any kind of food.

In one house in this town, the father and two children are dead; the mother and another child dying on the same litter. A woman and two children were lying sick in a sugar bog-head, opposite the hotel; one child and the mother died; some charitable persons took the other, and the same bog-head is now occupied by another dying woman and child.

A man has just been with me for some assistance; his wife has been lying dead in a cabin these three days, and his children and himself are lying on the same litter with her; this I have from undoubted authority. The Inspecting Officer and one of the engineers were coming here from Sennen yesterday; they met with a man in the last struggle on the roadside, near Mr. Mahony's, his little child crying over him. Both did what they could; hired a car to convey him to town, but before he was carried a quarter of a mile he was dead, and in half-an-hour after was buried in the churchyard of Templeton. These cases may give you an idea of how this country is now circumstanced.

Mr. FORSTER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Wesford, February 28, 1847.

SINCE my last, I have been to Gorey, Killegney, and Euniscorthy, at which places, as well as at all others in this county, the chief want is, I think, shoes for the men and women, and children's clothing. The want of clothes keep the children away from school, and is likely in that way to be an evil of more than a temporary character. Supplying these through the Relief Committees is not so good a way as giving them to ladies here, who have, to a certain extent, attempted relief in that way. Destitution (except in individual cases, which sometimes happens even in London) cannot be said to exist in this county, but there is a good deal of distress, just such as would be the case in England in years of trading failures. A 3s. 6d. rate would cover the whole thing, and they would save the expense of all the Government Inspectors, &c., &c. The lands not being cultivated is a "cry" in many cases, and where they cannot get the men from the works, it is because they will only give 10d. a day. The fairest people here give 1s. wages, and, as a gift, some meal each week, as they do not wish to have the country against them about raising the wages, and also when this is over, the meal, being only a gift, can be withdrawn, leaving only the 1s.

Gorey has sent a return of the sickness in the town to the Lord Lieutenant. This place (Lord Courtown's property) is very well off for residents, who have subscribed large sums, considering circumstances, and is rather better off than most places here. I think a good deal of the sickness might arise from a quantity of the meal, damaged from the wreck of the vessel near Waterford, having found its way up in that direction, and also want of proper cooking;

meal takes a long time in cooking. The soup kitchen is only lately opened to any extent. Out of 128 shoemakers, who work a good deal for the surrounding country, 68 are still at their trade, the remainder on the works, and one or two in the workhouse.

Killegney has passed a resolution to give the men put off the works some daily sum, as the farmers cannot afford to pay them reasonable wages for their work. At one place, report says, they are selling the meal at 6d. a stone, when of course they can work for 6d. a day, so extreme precaution is needed to guide the money into the proper channels, from which it is always leaking. I think the soup kitchen plan, with power for some person to come round on part of Government, and in conjunction with the sub-Committee, to examine on oath, the most practicable plan of checking (stopping is impossible) this evil.

The dépôt at Arklow will be of great service, the price there being 2s. 10d. a stone for Indian meal; this will supply Rathdrum round to Gorey. From Arklow to Gorey the cost of conveyance is 5s. a ton, from off Courtown bar to Gorey 3s.; so another dépôt at Gorey is not wanted, nor would it pay its expenses. At present Gorey pays 13s. to 16s. a ton, bringing the supplies mainly from Enniscorthy, a good corn market depending on the country and the port of Wexford, from which there is a good barge communication by the river.

A considerable number of people will emigrate from this, particularly from Temple Udican, where many have reclaimed land, small spots from the waste, and have the right of 21 years' unmolested possession. This sells for a good price, 10l. or more an acre, with which they are going off.

The most reasonable estimate that I can make, taking things as they will be here in the soup kitchens, is 3d. per day to feed each adult; they would be much better fed than they are now, and regular hours keep people in better health, and, in some degree, makes the call for food correspond with the quantity.

MR. ERWIN FORSTER to MR. TREVELYAN.

Arklow, February 25, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived here on the 20th instant, for the purpose of ascertaining what storage existed in this town, and whether any vessels had arrived containing provisions, on which subject I have made a report to Sir Randolph Routh. I find that the British Association has consigned "220 barrels of Indian corn meal, and 100 bags of biscuit," to Captain Horne.

Arklow is admirably adapted for a large dépôt, as it occupies a central position on the coast, and would supply the inland district bounded by the towns of Ballinacor, Tinnahely, and Gorey, the inhabitants of which much require assistance.

There is ample storage in the infantry barracks for 100 tons, in addition to that already shipped, and accommodation for 40 or 50 soldiers or police; for a protective force of some description would undoubtedly be required for a large quantity of provisions.

I have attended the Committees in this neighbourhood, who are actively employed in establishing soup kitchens, &c. There is one in the town of Arklow where daily relief is given to 700 applicants.

COMMISSARY-GENERAL HEWETSON to MR. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, February 28, 1847.

It is satisfactory to see supplies both in this, Cork, and other leading markets, daily coming in to a considerable extent, but prices do not decline. We have had an agent here from a Russian house, offering rye meal from St. Petersburg to arrive in all June and July, at (on delivery) 12l. 10s. the ton, but I do not find he has met with encouragement. The head of an extensive Quaker firm told me they looked for such a reduction in the price of grain and meal by that time that they did not think it prudent to purchase on those terms. I hope the expectation will be realized.

Dysentery is very generally and alarmingly prevalent in the rural districts, and even in the cities, especially Cork, induced probably by the cold raw

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weather and insufficiency of food, as well as of everything else tending to comfort; indeed, misery, destitution, and deaths are rapidly on the increase, and I cannot conceal from myself the conviction that many thousands of the wretched people will be carried off before this terrible visitation can be checked.

Sir H. Pigot is everywhere aiding Committees in throwing into their districts the supplies they purchase in the Cork and other markets, as well as those from the British Association. I have also three steamers and two lighters, besides revenue vessels, continually on the move in the Shannon and to the neighbouring coast, and within the last month have discharged into our depôt here the cargoes of 10 different vessels, from Liverpool, London, and other ports, and, I am glad to say, all of a good quality.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Sligo, March 1, 1847.

We are now in the month of March, when the Irishman's agricultural labours usually begin, but there is not a move towards cropping the small holdings. The occupants have no seed, nor money to buy it; no manure nor time to devote to labour that will not return them the present day's subsistence; the animus also is wanting, for they calculate that a grain crop after the rates and rent have been paid, cannot maintain them. It is, I think, difficult to disprove this proposition; and those who now object either to crop or give up their lands (and there are many) will have to be starved into a surrender, for I believe the present state of the law does not reach many of their tenures.

The crisis of Ireland, and a fearful one, has beyond a doubt arrived, and nothing but the most probing remedies adapted to a permanent *sine die* visitation, such as would be resorted to if the country were quite adrift, can ever reach the widely-spreading and overwhelming destitution. My belief is, that a stringent and effectual poor law will be eventually indispensable; and when all these professional mendicants and vagrants are brought to their own homes, and saddled on their legitimate sources of subsistence, the struggle will be whether the landlords or the people are to be sacrificed for the salvation of the land; for who can advocate the cause of most of those men who own the lower district of the barony of Lynney, in this county? There is a population of 30,000; of these, 24,000 are destitute; and, in the whole locality, the proprietors together do not afford employment of any kind to more than 100 to 110 men; and this is the position of a great portion of the country. There is also a great disinclination to work on the land, or rather, perhaps, to leave the Public Works. Here, at Sligo last week, the principal proprietor applied to the Board of Works for a number of men, to whom he would have given 1s. per day. These have nearly all returned to their 8d. wages on the public roads; and Captain Gilbert tells me he is obliged to take them.

There is much emigration going on and in contemplation. The paupers for England and Scotland; those with money, to embark for the States—many carrying away large sums, and taking French leave of their landlords, with several years' rent unpaid, and some clandestinely transferring the possession of their holdings to others whom it is not easy to evict.

It would be very desirable to see a large breadth of green crops, such as turnips, parsnips, carrots, beans, cabbages, &c., sown in their respective seasons, so as to give a succession of cheap home food before the harvest, which, about this neighbourhood, seldom comes in till the middle of September; for plentiful as the next and the succeeding harvests may be under a merciful Providence, we must not look upon their produce as pouring out plenty on our 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 of paupers, who will have no crops of their own. It is the famine of employment that they will have to struggle with long after the famine of food and high prices shall have disappeared.

The supply of bread-stuffs in this part is very well maintained, but the prices do not fall. Our cargo of corn per "*Regina*," which stranded in Killala Bay, was saved in a damaged state, and sold in small lots, at about 8d. per ton, to the poor in the neighbourhood. The "*Inventas*" has arrived safe to-day.

We are making progress with our soup kitchens, but we are in great want of boilers. The Committee here is supplying gratuitously 800 families, averaging four to five persons each, and will find no small difficulty in shaking

them off, for they are now inscribing on their books roomkeepers, mechanics, artisans, and others, whose craft and occupation find no longer any custom, and who cannot handle a spade, or readily fall into manual labour.

There is much sickness and mortality.

Our supply of peas and biscuits, as ingredients for soup, will be very acceptable; for unless it is made with some consistency, it is not food to work upon for people who have been accustomed to a stone of potatoes per day.

I suggested to the British Relief Association the other day that a store should be opened in London for receiving old carpets, sacking, baize that had been used at public assemblies, or such other coarse material as might be most acceptable to poor wretches whose only bedding is a sop of straw. The women, and particularly the children, go about barely covered with decency; and a piece of any coarse stuff would be very soon manufactured into some comfortable covering, far better adapted to the wear and tear of their habits than any cast-off garments of the upper classes. The Society of Friends has distributed clothing coarse but new, and it is in evidence that the recipients generally pawn it. The still coarser article given them, which they would use as a fig-leaf, would stick to them.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 2, 1847.

I HAVE seen M. Soyer. In the first instance, when I pushed the establishment of soup kitchens, I did so because I saw that the price of the meal was beyond the means of the people; but my efforts only taught the poor the use of bad soup. M. Soyer is an artist who will teach them to make good soup, which (well made) unites great nourishment with economy.

I really think that if M. Soyer's plan could be extended throughout the cities and large towns, it would not only afford an effectual aid in the present dearth, but go far to change the habits of the people, by giving them a new taste of a higher order, and scarcely less economical than the potato.

He expects his model kitchen in the course of a day or two.

What are the intentions of the Treasury on this point, and am I authorised to assist him, and to what extent? We may as well teach the Irish to make good soup as bad, and particularly as the good soup is the cheapest. M. Soyer's charge is $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per quart, and our Irish soupmakers charge $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. If M. Soyer's plan succeeds, it will cause quite a revolution in the tastes of the Irish, and be full of the best results.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

March 3, 1847.

You are authorized to incur any expense that may be necessary to make a fair trial of M. Soyer's plan.

The general application of it is another matter, and must, of course, be made the subject of a separate reference.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 2, 1847.

WRITE to the Relief Commissioners in Dublin that it is their Lordships' wish that all appointments to the situation of Inspector under the Relief Commission should be made by them with the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant, and they will therefore submit to his Excellency, for his approbation, the names of any individuals whom they may propose to appoint.

Acquaint Mr. Redington, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 3, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury,

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copies of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, dated the 27th ultimo, No. 254, and of its Enclosure, reporting the measures that have been taken for the relief of the distress at Kenmare.

ENCLOSURE.

Rear-Admiral Sir HUGH PIGOT to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

"*Crocodile*," at Cork, February 27, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant by this morning's post, having reference to the distressing account of actual temporary famine prevailing at Kenmare, consequent upon the delay of despatching the "*Adventure*," and conveying the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to take such steps as may be necessary to secure the distressed population of the Kenmare district from an extension of this.

My general daily letters, as per margin, will have informed their Lordships of the steps I had taken for the relief of Kenmare; but the most satisfactory answer I can make is to enclose the accompanying report from Commodore Wingrove, of the "*Blazer*," announcing the arrival of that steam-vessel at Kenmare with 40 tons of meal on the evening of Thursday, the 25th inst. The ship's company, in coaling and loading the "*Blazer*," had worked all Wednesday, and to four o'clock on Thursday morning, without intermission, to carry the supplies to Kenmare, as by Wednesday morning's post I was acquainted with the state of that district by a private note from the parish priest to my secretary.

From the hitherto cheering accounts received from Kenmare I was in no way prepared to receive such intelligence, and I only hope that the expectation of having a depot moored in the Kenmare water may not have induced the people to relax those efforts that were so nobly made to feed the population of their district, and worthy of imitation by other localities.

I have a further quantity of meal in store at Haulbowline*, just received from Cork, for the Relief Committee at Kenmare, to be sent round the moment I have an available vessel, which I think, will be the "*Geyser*," in return from Dingle.

The "*Adventure*" is preparing as fast as possible; from her leaky state it became necessary to place a platform some distance from the ballast, which I have undertaken without waiting their Lordships' reply to my letter No. 225, of the 20th inst.

The "*Adventure*," in two days, at Haulbowline, made 10 inches of water over the ballast.

Her Majesty's ship "*Blazer*," Kenmare,
February 25, 1847.

Sir,]

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "*Blazer*" at Kenmare this evening, at seven o'clock.

It is now dead low water, but I shall be prepared to land the meal very early in the morning. I have sent notice to this effect to Mr. O'Sullivan.

I am anxious to give the ship's company a good night's rest, as they worked very hard and very cheerfully until after four a.m.

Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, C.B.,
Cork.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. WINGROVE, Commodore.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 4, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter dated the 28th ultimo, from Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, reporting the mode in which he intended to employ the vessels under his orders on the coast of Ireland.

ENCLOSURE.

Rear-Admiral PIGOT to Mr. WARD.

"*Crocodile*," at Cork, February 28, 1847.

As the daily reports transmitted will have informed the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the present duties of Her Majesty's ships and vessels under my orders, I have the honour to report to you, for their Lordships' information, the employment I have in prospect for the ships noted in the margin, more immediately attached to the south and south-west coast.

* 520 sacks, 100 bags; and 111 sacks of potatoes, 25 sacks of barley, 22 sacks of oats for seed.

The "Geyser," on return from Dingle, to receive—

620* sacks of meal, and
150* sacks of seed for Kenmare, and
35 tons of meal for Lucan.

Gessamer,
Buldog,
Urgent,
Rhodmanshar,
Devon,
Odin,

The "Dee," on return from Valentia, to take—

400* sacks of meal for Dingle, and
600* sacks of meal for Killarney.*

The "Blazer," on return from Kenmare and Tralee, to take—

200* sacks of meal for Killoeglin, and
160* sacks of meal for Glenbeach.

The "Cockatrice," when cleared of boilers, &c., to take a cargo of provisions on account of the British Relief Association, for Castlemaine, for distribution.

The "Dee" and "Cockatrice" to proceed in company with the "Blazer" for landing the supplies in Castlemaine Harbour, Commander Wingrove being well acquainted, from his frequent visits, with the intricate navigation.

The "Zephyr," on return from Skibbereen to take on board provisions, on account of the British Relief Association for Carrigrohoy.

The "Mercury," "Gipsy," and "Gessamer," cutters, to be employed in the conveyance of provisions between the small ports, such as Glandore, Castletownsend, and between Cork and Bantry Bay.

The "Buldog," on return from Tarbert, to take on board Indian meal at Haulbowline, landed from the American ship "Globe," for conveyance to the depôts of Castletown and Tarbert.

The "Urgent," on being relieved by the "Tartarus" at Galway, to take on board 100 tons of provisions, on account of the British Relief Association for Dingle.

The "Rhodmanshar"† on return from Devonport, should the 48th Regiment have arrived from the West Indies, to go alongside the transport and receive the service companies, and convey them to Warren Point, returning to Cork with the many provisions now in the Ordnance depôts of Newry and Carrickfergus.

The "Devon," lighter, now a floating depôt, in Long Island Sound, on being cleared to proceed to Cork to replenish with meal, and to return to the neighbourhood of Skull.

And as a further service is not provided for the "Odin" after landing her cargo at Belmullet, I have directed Capt. Williams to return to Cork for orders.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 5, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, extract from a letter dated the 27th ultimo, addressed by the Commanding Officer of the "Blazer," at Valentia, to Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, relative to relief afforded to the district of Kenmare.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Commander WINGROVE, dated February 27, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report that, having landed 45 tons of meal for the Relief Committee, I left Kenmare in Her Majesty's ship "Blazer" yesterday, at 5 15 P.M., and anchored at Kilmickarlog for the night. On leaving it again this morning, I observed a schooner at anchor off the harbour's mouth. I boarded her, and found she was laden with 100 tons of meal for the Relief Committee at Kenmare.

Sir JOHN BURGEOYNE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Relief Commission Office,
Dublin Castle, February 25, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from Captain Caffin, R.N., commanding Her Majesty's ship "Scourge," and Assistant Commissary-General Bishop, on the state of destitution in the districts of Skull and Caheragh, West Cork; and expressing their Lordships' desire that the Relief Commissioners should direct

* On account of Relief Committee.

† The post has just brought me their Lordships' notice of this vessel being ordered to the west of Scotland. The "Buldog" can perform the service of taking the troops in from two to three days, without inconvenience to the supplies for the Government depôts.

their attention to the state of that district, and take measures for the organization of efficient Relief Committees, at the earliest practicable period, and communicate with the Board of Health, with a view to proper measures being immediately adopted to give medical aid to the numerous persons who appear to be suffering from illness; as well as to the steps being taken which the public health and decency require, to bury the dead in cases in which the surviving relatives are unable to perform the last offices.

And I beg to state to you, that every step shall be taken to accelerate the placing of those districts under the operation of the new relief measure.

In the mean time there is an active Committee at work in the district under the existing measures, which Committee received on 26th January, 1847, on 62*l*. 12*s*. subscription, and are now about to receive 336*l*. on subscriptions to the same amount. The total thus placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee, in subscriptions and grants, will amount to 954*l*. 12*s*. Provisions have been sent to the district by Government vessels; and public attention having been peculiarly called to it by the publication of the letter of Captain Caffin, as well as others, it is probable that more relief will be afforded there than to other localities, of which it is to be feared there are many in an equal state of misery.

With regard to the condition of health, immediately on receipt of the first copy of Captain Caffin's letter (on the 22nd instant), it was communicated by the Commissioners to the Board of Health, who adopted the proceeding explained in the accompanying memorandum, by which it will be perceived that measures have been taken in accordance with the law.

Any arrangements connected with the burial of the dead will require consideration, and probably some new general legislative regulation, as it is to be apprehended that under the present calamity, similar scenes are common in other parts of Ireland, and the only provision for such purpose, namely 7th Geo. IV, cap. 73, c. 10 and 11, are not available, as parties paying vestry dues, who are necessary, do not now exist except in some towns.

ENCLOSURE.

(Memorandum)

A LETTER, dated 23rd February, was sent from the Board of Health to the Guardians of Skibberreen Union, relating to the localities of Skull and also Drimoleague in the same Union. It could not be sent on Monday, 22nd, owing to the Board of Health not having broken up in time for it to go by that night's post, and was sent next day, in order to be in time for the next meeting (this day).

The letter set out the provisions of the 4th section 9 Vict., c. 6, (copy of which was sent), for temporary fever hospital and dispensary relief, under a medical officer or officers, that may be appointed by his Excellency for the Union, under section 12, and stated to the effect, that—

"If these provisions were brought into operation, relief could be given by means of medical treatment, and nutriment where necessary, in cases of destitute persons affected with fever or other epidemic diseases, either in a temporary fever hospital, or in their own homes, to the persons so affected; and the Guardians would accordingly be enabled to afford relief more effectually than they would otherwise be enabled by law to do in the localities in question."

That the Board of Health are prepared to issue a requisition accordingly, under the provisions of the 4th section; and the Board of Guardians were requested to that end, to name the medical officer or officers whom they would recommend to be appointed to act in the localities in question.

February 23, 1847.

(Signed)

A. M.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 3, 1847.

Write to the Relief Commissioners, that after a perusal of their letter, dated 25th ultimo, their Lordships continue to be impressed with the opinion that decisive steps ought to be immediately taken in the neighbourhood of Skull, and in other districts in which the greatest degree of destitution prevails, for affording medical assistance to the sick, including the conveyance of suitable food to their houses, and for the burial of the dead.

Any delay in the requisite attentions to the sick, must obviously be attended with additional loss of life, and some measures seem indispensable to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, which must be the result of leaving corpses unburied.

It appears from Sir J. Burgoyne's letter, that this last mentioned object is not sufficiently provided for by any existing legal enactment, independently of which it is deserving of consideration, whether the sanatory arrangements arising out of the present melancholy state of affairs, are not so closely connected with the other measures of relief, as to render it expedient that they should form part of the same system, and that the Relief Committees should be required to employ proper persons to bury, with as much attention to the feelings of the survivors as circumstances will admit, those dead bodies which cannot be buried by any other means.

Their Lordships desire that the Commissioners will take this subject again into their serious consideration, in concert with the Board of Health, and that after submitting their views to the Lord Lieutenant for his approbation, they will report the measures which in their opinion ought to be adopted.

If the Commissioners and the Board of Health should be of opinion that advantage would be derived from the assistance of naval and military medical officers in some of the districts in which disease has made most progress, a communication will be made to the heads of the Naval and Military Departments, with a view to obtain the aid of such medical officers as may volunteer for this painful duty.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Secretary for Ireland, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. ARCHER.

Limerick, March 4, 1847.

LORD ROBERT CLINTON was with me on Tuesday; he has placed his services at the disposal of the British Association, without receiving any remuneration, and is anxious to get advice and information. He went to Tarbert yesterday, where he expects a cargo. I have put him in communication with Captain Mann. He seems active and most anxious to see his way. Of course, the Association will have our best services for the good cause.

We are all strenuously exerting ourselves, but do what we may, the mortality will be fearfully great.

I wish at Cahirciveen they would follow the example set them at Dingle, and import, but the former do not seem inclined to do so, hoping that our depot will save them the trouble.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. B. T. HILL, dated Dingle, March 2, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report, that the cargo of provisions sent by the British Association, per "Commodore," for the poor of Dingle, was assigned to Captain Hickson, Chairman to the Dingle Poor Relief Committee; the entire has been distributed into equal portions, so that each district should get the same quantity. I have also the honour to report the arrival of Her Majesty's steamer "Geyser," with 100 tons of meal for the Dingle Committee. The arrival of bread stuffs here, for the last few days, has been rather brisk; there are now three schooners discharging meal at the quay for private individuals of the town.

REPORTS OF INSPECTING OFFICERS.

Mr. TRIMMER to Sir R. ROOTH.

Cavan, February 1, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report to you my proceedings since I received, on the 11th of January, a letter from Mr. Trevelyan, dated the 8th, informing me that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury had appointed me for service connected with the relief operations in Ireland, and desiring that I would proceed forthwith to Dublin, and report myself to you. I accordingly applied for leave of absence from the geological survey of Great Britain, on which I was employed, and obtained it on an understanding that I should first finish the work which I had in hand.

This occupied me till the 22nd, although I worked considerably beyond the office hours. On

the night of the 23rd I reached Dublin, and on the following morning (Sunday) reported myself to you. On the 28th I received your final instructions, dated the 27th, to undertake the duties of inspecting officer for the counties of Cavan and Fermanagh, with my headquarters at Cavan or Enniskillen. On the 30th I left Dublin, and arrived at Cavan, having received the greater part of the necessary documents on the preceding evening.

I have further the honour to report, that I have issued circulars to the chairmen of the Relief Committees of the county Cavan, requesting to be informed of the days on which the Committees meet; and I propose remaining at Cavan during the present week, awaiting their replies, and putting myself, in the meantime, in communication with the most active members of the Cavan Relief Committee. I shall urge on them, in compliance with my instructions, the necessity of establishing soup kitchens, and the urgency of local subscriptions, together with the liberal aid which the Government are disposed to afford to them.

The season for the execution of permanent improvements on the land by thorough drainage, on the Deane system, is wearing rapidly away, and as it does not continue beyond April, it will probably have terminated before the landowners can make arrangements for commencing operations. It is therefore to the ordinary cultivation of the soil, and to the cutting of turf for fuel, which in Ireland succeeds the planting of potatoes and the sowing of the spring corn, that we must look for the means of furnishing to the labouring classes the money wherewith to purchase even the cheapest description of food; and I shall feel it my duty to urge upon the landowners, and those who have influence with the peasantry, the necessity of immediate and strenuous exertions on the part of all connected with the land to accomplish this.

I shall urge them to sow as large an extent of grain as possible, on all land in due course for it, and to substitute on the land which in the usual rotation of Irish cultivation would be planted with potatoes, such other crops as will furnish a supply of food during the summer. The crops best adapted to this purpose are cabbages, and beans and peas, the nutritious properties of the two latter being greater than those of the cereals.

I shall urge upon those who have land properly fenced the necessity of sowing immediately cabbage seed in large quantities, to form seed beds for the purpose of affording a supply of plants. These will be the earliest crops which can be raised. If planted in rows four to five feet apart, beans and peas may at the same time be sown between them, to succeed the cabbages, and to be followed by turnips, which will be available during the latter part of the autumn and in the winter, either as an auxiliary to other articles of human food, or as food for cattle, according to circumstances. Carrots, particularly the white or Belgian carrot, and parsnips will, with the sweet or garden beet-root, be valuable; but they will not be available as food till after the harvest.

Of these, the seeds are only raised to supply a very limited demand; and it will be impossible to procure them in quantities sufficient for the wants of the present crisis.

It has been stated that a cheap and nutritious bread can be made from mangel wurzel. I would therefore suggest the propriety of causing immediate experiments to be made of preparing bread according to the process recommended. Should they succeed, the seed of mangel wurzel, as well as of the different varieties of turnip, are procurable in larger quantities than those of the other roots which have been mentioned. They may be sown to the end of April.

Beans and peas, however, with cabbages, must be the chief resource to which we can look for an early supply of food, and they should be sown immediately. Buckwheat might be sown later than any other grain; but I fear the humidity of the climate will render it a very precarious crop.

In order to economize the seed of all spring crops, as well as to furnish reproductive employment for women and children, I shall urge the depositing of the seed by the dibble, by which, in addition to the preceding advantages, a larger produce will be obtained.

To provide reproductive employment during the summer, as well as a large supply of Swedish and other turnips, which will, under any circumstances, be valuable as food for cattle, and will, in an emergency, keep human beings from starving, as well as to meet the deficient supply of manure (for the pigs on which Irish agriculture depended for it are with the potatoes rapidly disappearing from the country). I shall urge the breaking up of pasture, by ploughing and burning, by which fine crops of mangel wurzel and turnips may be raised without any manure.

Though the cultivation of flax, manufactured into linen by the cultivator, which was formerly carried on to a considerable extent in this country, has been nearly abandoned, in consequence of the application of machinery to flax-spinning in Scotland, it appears that large quantities of flax are annually imported from foreign countries to feed the British flax-mills; and I shall therefore urge an extended growth of flax this year, for the purpose of furnishing employment in its cultivation, and in the preparation of raw material to be spun by machinery, which will furnish a commodity to be exchanged against the imported food, which even with favourable harvests, the population of Ireland will require as consumers of grain until the agriculture of the country shall be greatly improved. I shall also urge the propriety of endeavouring to induce manufacturing capitalists to avail themselves of the water power which the district affords for the establishment of spinning mills for flax.

I have entered into these details in the hope that if the above suggestions shall be approved of, I may be furnished with the means of circulating them through the district more rapidly than can be done by personal communication or by writing, seeing how little time remains for carrying many of them into effect, particularly those which regard the procuring from the Irish soil an early supply of food for the summer.

Remarks by Sir R.
Stock.

These experiments
have been made.

This species is
frequently prohibited
by the landowners, as
although it will at
first produce large
crops, it soon exhausts
the soil. One-piling
requires not to be
taking the heart out
of the land.

The flax grown in
Ireland has not the
fibre for the make of
which British flax is
important, as the fibre
is too short for which
the British and French
flax are used. There
are flax mills of
extraordinary magnitude
at Drogheda
and Belfast, but the
trade is rather over-
done, and some of the
mills are not working.

It is not safe to
publish suggestions,
but failure should
occur. Leeds Farn-
ham, Esq., &c., will
be found to have
thought of all these
plans.

Feb. 25, 1847.

Mr. TRIMMER to Sir R. ROUTE

Cavan, February 8, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on Wednesday last, I attended a meeting of the Cavan Relief Committee, at which, however, few members were present and little business was transacted. A soup kitchen is in full operation in the town, from which soup is distributed gratuitously. The town I am told, has been divided into districts, in which the condition of the poor has been investigated by members of the Committee, and those who were deemed proper objects of relief have been placed on the gratuitous list. Soup is also sold at a penny a quart. It is considered that the price scarcely covers the cost; but that at a higher rate it would not be bought.

Another soup establishment is much wanted for the rural part of the district, and will, I hope be obtained.

The treasurer and clerk have expressed the utmost desire to afford me every information which I may require, respecting the funds, the numbers on the soup list, the subscribers, and the landowners, who have not subscribed. They request, however, a few days delay in furnishing the information, as the soup lists are not yet completed and some additional subscriptions are expected.

I have received replies from the greater part of the chairmen of the Relief Committees, most of which, unfortunately meet on the same day of the week. I must endeavour to have some other arrangement made which will enable me to visit them regularly at frequent intervals.

The chairman of the Mallagh Committee informs me that they have as yet distributed none of the funds collected, as they are awaiting the decision of Parliament as to the intended system of relief; and that they have applied to the Central Relief Committee in Dublin.

The Chairman of the Ballyjamesduff Committee states, that the Committee are anxious to be informed of the necessary particulars for their instruction in the new system of relief about to be established; and if they are to be suspended, how soon it is likely to be.

In consequence of the application from the parish of Templeport, for aid from the British Association, which was referred to me, I have spent two days in examining into the state of that district, which I have recommended for assistance as an urgent case.

I consider it to be in a very critical state, from the great extent of the parish, the number of small occupiers of reclaimed mountain, their almost entire dependence on the potato, the paucity of resident proprietors, and the difficulty of getting subscriptions under the imminent prospect of a change in the mode of administering relief. I am applying to the non-resident proprietors for subscriptions, but, as they will come as very slowly, and the Public Works are about to stop, which at present afford the only means of subsistence, I fear it will be necessary for the Government to be prepared to advance something to the Templeport Sub-Committee, on the faith of subscriptions to be collected or a rate to be levied.

I have discussed with the gentlemen whom I have met since I had last the honour of addressing you, the agricultural suggestions contained in my letter of the 1st instant, which I find generally approved of, and which, I hope, will by some be carried into effect.

It appears to be the prevailing opinion, that oats—if sown at all, for as yet there are scarcely any preparations for it—will be sown indiscriminately on land which, under other circumstances, would have been planted with potatoes, and on that which is in regular rotation for grain. Such a departure from good husbandry may be tolerated in a year like the present, when it is desirable to have as large a breadth of grain sown as possible, but the exhausting effects of such a system, if persevered in for a few years, will cause the produce of the Irish soil rapidly to diminish; whereas, if properly cultivated, it might be greatly increased. The almost total neglect of preparations for the ensuing crop in this district, is assuming a very alarming character. It is attributed by all with whom I have conversed, to two causes—inability of the poorer tenants, not only to procure seed but to labour upon their land without receiving subsistence from some quarter or other; while the greater portion of the landlords are unable to afford this aid with their rents unpaid, the interest of their debts to be provided for, and in addition to this, the novel charge of supporting the poor. The other cause assigned is, that the farmers who have the ability, are holding back in the expectation that the Government will crop the land for them. There is a general outcry against the Public Works; but, at the same time, a great reluctance expressed by the same parties, that they should be stopped at present; and I find a general expectation that not only the half, but the whole of that debt will ultimately be remitted.

Respect by Sir R.
Route.

In these circumstances Mr. Trimmer undertakes the duties which should be performed by the Relief Committee, who will be always ready to transfer them to him.
Feb. 20, 1847.

Mr. TRIMMER to Sir R. ROUTE.

Virginia, February 10, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report that I visited Ballyjamesduff this day, for the purpose of attending the meeting of the Relief Committee. The chairman and secretary being both absent in Cavan, and the latter having the books with him, the business of the day, which was to receive applications for employment on the Relief Works, was not proceeded with. Many members of the Committee, however, being present, including the treasurer, (the Presbyterian minister), two clergymen of the Established Church, one Roman Catholic Parish Priest, several of the better class of farmers, and the officer of the constabulary, we entered on the business of subscriptions and soup-kitchens.

The treasurer reported that he had about 54*l.* collected, and about 84*l.* more promised,
[c. 2.] 2 E

which he expected to receive by the end of the week, when application will be made for the Government donation.

This is a very poor district. Its destitute population appears, by the abstract of the returns in December last, to have been—

First class cottiers, holding no land or not more than one acre	5,824
Second class ditto, holding from one to four acres	2,421
Third class ditto, four to six acres	747
	8,992

The total population in 1841 having been 16,557.

I have no returns at present of the numbers on the Public Works; but they must be very considerable from my observations of those whom I passed on the road, comprising, as well as the able-bodied, old men, women, and children.

Among the subscribers there appears a considerable disposition to limit their subscriptions to particular districts with which they are connected, to be administered by Sub-Committees of the General Committee, as there are several parts of the district in which the destitute poor are numerous, but either from the complication of interests in the land, or the embarrassments of the landowners, little or no subscriptions will be raised; I shall watch it closely, and if I find it necessary, shall recommend an application to the British Association or ask for the additional donations which the Government give in extreme cases.

A question is beginning to be discussed in this Committee, on which, being new to me, I was unable to give information—namely, what funds they can have recourse to for the purpose of providing coffins for the destitute dead; applications for which were stated to be of frequent occurrence, and of which I witnessed more than one.

A soup-kitchen is in operation, but on a very limited scale, from the want of a boiler. It is intended to procure more than one, and to open soup establishments in different parts of the district.

Every suggestion offered by me was cordially received; among others, that of sowing the spring corn for the purpose of economising seed, and furnishing profitable employment for the women and children now at work upon the roads; and I was pleased to find it taken up warmly by a very intelligent farmer, whose example, I have no doubt, will have great influence.

Complaints were made of the impositions of the bakers of the town, both as regards price, weight, and quality; and it is proposed to open a public bakery, under the management of a trustworthy person, to be remunerated by a per centage profit added to the cost price.

Among the peasantry with whom I had opportunities of conversing on the road, I found the same eagerness to emigrate which prevails at the opposite extremity of the county; and an opinion expressed that, the money which has been expended on the Public Works, would have been much better employed in removing to America those who wish to emigrate, but have not the means. On inquiring how long they had been of this opinion the reply was, about two months, since there appeared a prospect of the works ceasing. Those who go out are represented as doing well, and sending home "a power of money" to assist their relatives to join them, and as making these remittances, in many cases, in the course of three or four months after their arrival.

Between Cavan and Ballyjamesduff I observed little or no corn in the haggards. There is rather more between the latter place and Virginia, but taking the average of the district I fear not enough for seed.

The cost of carriage at the present time is stated to be 30s. a ton from Drogheda to Ballyjamesduff, being a great advance on the ordinary cost of transport, partly from the increased cost of horse provender, and partly from the heavy draught occasioned by the present state of the roads from the works in progress.

P.S.—I am going through the barony of Castlebar attending Relief Committees where any meet this week, and conferring with the principal members of the Committee where there are no meetings till next week. I expect to return to Cavan on Saturday evening.

Captain FISHERBURNE to Sir R. ROUTH.

Ennis, February 5, 1847.

I ATTENDED the meeting of deputations from the Relief Committees of Clare which took place this day, Sir Lucius O'Brien, the Lieutenant of the county, in the chair, when they passed the enclosed resolutions unanimously.

At first there was a general opinion that the Government ought to buy food to destroy "the monopoly," but Mr. Fitzgerald, of Corofin, questioned the propriety of Government becoming buyers in a falling market. Sir Lucius and Mr. Stoddart, the new sheriff, joined him, and they carried the meeting so far as to modify the resolution. I did not think any of those who spoke, except the gentlemen I have mentioned, had a very clear idea of the effect which would be produced by the Government entering the food market.

The Commissariat arrangements at first were condemned in toto; this was modified by a condemnation of the Treasury. Arguments were offered to prove that the country would have been better without depôts, and comments made upon the fact of Captain Mann's having said that he would let them have meal at 18s. per ton, and afterwards raising it to 19s. I explained this as far as I could by comparison with different gentlemen.

In all these resolutions the duties of landowners and farmers are not referred to, as if they had been to perform; or as if they were really performing them, instead of being merely the public authority by their inactivity.

I was glad to observe that while they expressed themselves strongly as to the insufficiency of food of the poor, they dealt only in generalities as to its having proved fatal; yet there can be little doubt that disease makes infinitely greater ravages now than at any time previous, and here is as little doubt that there are many on the works, who living from pay day to pay day, would perish if the works were suspended even for a short time, and I fear this number is on the increase, as the farmers are discharging their boys, not wishing to buy food for them; formerly they fed them at no cost, as they could not sell their potatoes. Farmers are the best off of any class, and yet they are doing less than any.

There are a number who could not be provided for by the ordinary agricultural employment, even though much extended, as they know nothing about them, and their age or previous habits unfit them for acquiring the facility or knowledge requisite.

The tillage of the land would have formed the subject of a resolution, but that they were of opinion that the Government had some measure in contemplation to effect this.

A gentleman of very extensive knowledge of the people, from having large agencies, says, that he knows that they are hiding their seed, and possibly delaying their sowing in the expectation of having seed given them.

The plan, a copy of which I transmitted yesterday, for forming a fund for seed was adopted, and a Committee appointed to carry it into execution. Their desire is, that the collection should be simultaneous; should the Government permit, and would give an order to the check-clerks to collect from the people on the works, time would be saved.

I have inquired of a great number of the men on the works if they would subscribe, and they said readily yes, 6d. or 1s., as they could afford.

In writing to landladies to induce them to subscribe to the Relief Funds, can I say that this will form part of the fund at the disposal of the Relief Committees to be constituted, and will therefore lessen the rate on their properties?

ENCLOSURE.

Resolved,—That representing as we do the Relief Committees of the county of Clare, and possessing accurate information as to the condition of the country, we hereby attest in the most solemn manner in which it is possible to make a declaration, that the deficiency of food is such, that unless the most energetic measures be adopted on the part of the Government to supply the same in the promptest manner and within the shortest possible period, famine and disease will still further depopulate the land.

Resolved,—That the crisis has come in which the ordinary principles of political economy, upon which so much has been insisted, are not only inexpedient but ruinous; and the further pursuit of the course hitherto sanctioned and encouraged, affords but opportunity to heartless monopolists to trade on human life, and hoard up their immense supplies in expectation of still more enormous profits.

Resolved,—That we regard it as the duty of a paternal Government not only to apply itself to the relief of existing distress, but to adopt such measures as shall have for their object the prevention of a similar calamity; and it is our decided conviction that if seed be not immediately and extensively supplied to the small farmers of this country, the misery will be of an augmented description in the ensuing year; and we call upon the Government without a moment's delay to establish depôts of seed for sale throughout the country, instead of an insufficient money grant of 50,000*l.*, and to forward such quantities of corn and other seeds as the Relief Committee shall require for their respective districts.

Resolved,—That the property of Government interference to bring food within the reach of the poor, presents itself in a new aspect; trial has been made of the ordinary mode, which having not only signally failed, but served to develop a degree of speculation which must have been wholly unaccomplished, we hereby call on Government for an explicit declaration, that monopoly shall no longer flourish or enrich itself under ministerial license and encouragement.

Resolved,—That the whole course of the Government arrangements in the Commissariat department since the commencement of the present distress, has but served grievously to increase it; in the first instance, by purchasing in the home market, thereby diminishing the supply to the poor and raising the price; and in the second, by maintaining prices equal to those of the merchants, virtually upholding and strengthening their covetous and exorbitant demands.

Resolved,—That as the destruction of the potato crop must necessarily lead to a new system of agriculture with which the people are entirely unacquainted, the Government be respectfully requested to authorise the Poor Law Guardians to levy a rate, to enable the Relief Committees to pay an experienced agriculturist, who will instruct the people in each relief district in the best mode of tilling the land, selecting the seeds best suited to the soil, and the manner of sowing such seeds and bringing them to maturity.

Resolved,—That in order to facilitate the progress of reproductive works, the application of the occupying tenant as well as of the proprietor for the drainage and improvement of land, should receive the attention of the Legislature; presentments for such works could be simplified, and the tenant's interest in the progress and proper execution of the work, would go far to reduce the present excessively numerous staff of officials, the money so expended to be made a first charge on the land.

Resolved,—That in any comprehensive scheme for general improvement, we would respectfully suggest to Government, to grant pecuniary assistance to every feasible and well selected contemplated railway, such works being reproductive, and having for their object the development of the resources of the country.

Written by Sir R. Peel.

It seems to be extraordinary that in any meeting of landowners, such a resolution as this should be passed, calling for the payment of even out of the local taxes, to perform duties for which they should each provide on their own properties, and in which their interests are involved.

Not one observation on this important step, taken by the farmers of discharging their labourers, is affecting the labourers and the Public Works, was made at the meeting.

There is this objection to a public officer's attendance at these meetings, that it often encourages demands on the Government, and leads the authority there collected, to believe that he is there to convey to Government all that is put forward by parties interested to evade their own liabilities and taxes.

Feb 28, 1847.

Note—Although the petitions were made at London or Liverpool, the articles were nearly all "to arrive" from abroad.

Resolved.—That imperial calamity should be borne by imperial resources; that Government has already declared and partially adopted the principle; we call upon them, therefore, to carry it out to the full extent, and relieve this country from an unjust burden it is unable to bear.

Resolved.—That from the poverty of the small farmers of this country, and from their inability to leave the Public Works, where they receive hire for their labour, to till their gardens, this meeting beg to impress upon the Government the great importance of the subject.

Resolved.—That this meeting cannot separate without expressing its heartfelt thanks to the British Association, and to those benevolent and disinterested individuals in England, who have come forward so nobly to assist in relieving the famine-stricken poor of this country.

Captain GLASCOCK to Sir R. ROUTH.

Armagh, Beresford Arms, February 5, 1847.

1. SINCE I did myself the honour to announce to you my arrival in this town, I have attended several Relief Committees in the city, as well as in the county of Armagh.

2. A stranger has to contend with much of difficulty in obtaining correct information touching the distress of each district, and the exact extent of destitution prevailing in the county; and this difficulty, with a few exceptions, arises chiefly from the various versions given on important points by opposing, and not unfrequently interested, parties sitting on the same Committee.

3. Nevertheless, much of matter becomes reducible to truth, by an Inspecting Officer adopting the system of interrogation, similar to that which appears in the printed formula, supplied for affording information to the Committee of the British Relief Association in London.

4. With a view of obtaining for you information, shaped in a form brief and striking, I transmit by this post "*returns*," statistically shaped, and collected through the medium of terse interrogation—questions not directly put upon Irish Committees, affording too often opportunity to indulge in boisterous details.

5. I have also, by this day's post, transmitted "*resolutions*,"* embodying "*Suggestions*" on the all-important and paramount points of tilling the land and supplying seed to distressed farmers now seeking subsistence by employment on the Public Works—an employment, I fear, operating alarmingly against all reproductive considerations.

6. It is manifest that Public Works, particularly road making, is the popular employment, and the reasons are easily explained. The poor are sore of their daily pay, and Committee-men are so pressed by destitute paupers, seeking employment, that they (Committee-men) are glad to avail themselves of so ready a mode of ridding themselves, individually and collectively, from painful and, sometimes, clamorous solicitude, by placing the destitute, or rather recommending such objects as fit to be employed on the Public Works. Hence the reason of so much land being prepared for the reception of seed.

7. On the subject of spending I have given due attention. I have pressed the point with Committees, and few regard it as a popular employment, it not being reproductive, but usually attended with loss. But what employment can now be regarded in the light of a gain? Yet, would it not be a gain to induce industry, and discourage in the female portion of the pauper population, that base to Ireland, trading mendacity—habitual begging? From my own knowledge, and from the testimony of those who seek employment for destitute females, many would undertake work were they supplied with flax; at the same time, I fear there will be found a deficiency of wheels, reels, and implements requisite in the pursuit of this employment.

8. On the subject of destitution, I am sorry to state that it is manifestly on the increase, and that in places where soup had been distributed only on alternate days, it is now, at the recommendation of medical men residing in distressed districts, issued daily.

To prevent fraud and double issues of soup, I have recommended a system of supply which goes to check deception, and to prevent an influx of strangers pouring into towns from all parts of the county, and taking the share intended for the destitute population of the district.

*Loughgall Relief Committee, County of Armagh,
February 5, 1847.*

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS carried in Committee on same day as above dated.

" Resolved—

1. " That viewing with serious apprehension the inability of many of the small farmers of this locality to prepare their ground for the ensuing crop, we consider the greatest benefit would arise had we a small loan placed at the disposal of our Committee, to enable them to employ some of the destitute able-bodied men (labourers) in assisting the poorer of our farmers in preparing their ground by spade husbandry for the reception of seed.

2. " That in consequence of the great scarcity of seed oats, and the distressed state of the farmers, a large portion of the land is likely to remain in an unproductive condition (*thereby perpetuating the present scarcity*), we would therefore recommend that seed oats be furnished by the Committee, with the aid of Government, to the poor farmers on the following conditions:—

* See page 118.

" That the Committee having ascertained that the applicant for seed had duly prepared his ground, he will receive a sufficient quantity of the same on his procuring from his landlord, or such other solvent person as may be approved of by the Committee, security that it shall be paid for by two instalments, the first half on the 1st of December, 1847, and the second on the 1st of December, 1848.

" By this simple means, we think that many of our able-bodied men who are at present unemployed, and a great burden to our relief fund, would find means of supporting themselves, and, under Providence, the apprehended scarcity of a second year would be effectually arrested and habits of industry encouraged in our people.

" Would you be kind enough to submit this plan (if it meet with your approbation) to those in authority, and believe me, &c.

" SAVAGE HALL,

" *Chairman pro tem. of Loughgall Committee.*"

The above resolutions have been carried in two districts, in consequence of having pointed out to each Committee the urgent necessity of turning their attention to *tilling the land*, and sowing it for the ensuing crop.

I regret to state that this paramount consideration is too seldom taken into account by Committees of Relief. The clergy, Protestant, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic, together with other intelligent members attached to Committees, alone give serious attention to a subject fraught with such vital importance to the nation at large.

*Charlemont Relief Committee, County of Armagh,
February 5, 1847.*

SUGGESTIONS submitted to GOVERNMENT on the subject of *Tilling Land* and insertion of *Seed* for the ensuing Crop.

1. " That the Relief Committee should ascertain the number of small farmers, having land not exceeding ten acres, in the district, who (from destitution) are unable to till their land, or find seed for insertion.

2. " That such occupiers be furnished with a list of the unemployed poor of the district, and from which they may be permitted to select labourers able to prepare the land for seed, such labourers getting fair and usual wages for a fair day's work; the Committee of Relief paying half the daily wages, the tenants the other half.

3. " That the Relief Committee be empowered to sell seed at a reduced price to the farmer.

4. " That destitute farmers employed on Public Works be invited to prepare their land for seed, the Committee to pay them 6s. per diem, and to advance them a certain sum for digging the land at a given rate per acre."

The above suggestions, together with the following, I have been requested by the Committee of Relief for Charlemont to submit for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

SECOND SUGGESTION, embodied in a Resolution carried in Committee on same day as above dated.

" *Resolution—*

" That unless some means be speedily taken to procure seed oats and other grains to insert in the ground, the small farms must remain without seed, the majority of small farmers being deprived of the means of purchasing seed of any description; that a great number of the above-mentioned farmers who had saved seed oats, have been, from dire necessity, compelled to sell them, or get them ground into meal wherewith to feed their families.

2. " That the Relief Committee might appoint two competent persons to go through the different townlands, to make inquiries as to those needing most money or grain; and, to prevent fraud or misrepresentation, the aforesaid two persons might procure information as to the extent of each farmer's holding; those conjointly could examine each farm, reporting the extent of land requiring tillage and seed, and the means of each tenant towards repaying the value of whatever seed, &c., might be lent. That the repayment be made by two instalments, the first in November, 1847, the second in November, 1848.

3. " That when the necessary information be obtained, a letter be addressed to each landlord, calling on him in the first instance to advance the amount required, either through the Committee or some proper person in the townland (say the bailiff.) That if the landlord refuse the required advance, then the Committee of Relief to make application to Government for a loan to enable the said Committee to supply the seed required, and that a competent person be paid to superintend the carrying out the proposed plan, and that the name of each landlord refusing to the tenant as advance be returned to Government."

Captain HAYMES to Sir R. ROOTH.

Parsonstown, King's County, February 9, 1847.

HAVING completed my inspection of the Relief Committees of this county, I beg to lay before you the result of my personal observations, as well as the inquiries made from all classes of the community.

1. Up to the present moment, there has appeared no extreme destitution, except in one or two isolated parishes, and even in these cases the relief afforded by the Public Works has enabled the workmen to support their numerous families. I have not been able to trace to any authentic source a single "death from starvation," throughout the whole county.

2. Much difficulty is experienced in finding persons fitted for members of Relief Committees. Few of the ex-officio members attend, and most of the landed proprietors are absent; thus the work has been hitherto left to the secretaries, who being for the most part, clergymen, either Protestant or Roman Catholic, and actuated by their charitable feelings, have lost sight of the true principles on which the Committee should be conducted. I have, therefore, considered it my duty to add such names to the several Committees as, upon careful inquiry I found well fitted for such occupation, in every case submitting the names for the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant of the county.

3. I have found generally, *great irregularities*, and, in some cases, *gross abuse*, in the proceedings of the Committees. I am, however, in justice, bound to add, that they appear to have arisen chiefly from a strong feeling of benevolence on the one hand, and, on the other, from a misconception that, as they had not applied for a Government donation in aid of their private subscriptions, they were at full liberty to dispense their charities as they thought best. I have now received the strongest assurances from them all, that they will, in future, adhere most strictly to the instructions, and, as they can no longer plead ignorance on this head (having begged them to apply to me when in doubt), I entertain hopes that these assurances may in due time, be fulfilled.

4. Observing in my progress through the county, that little or no preparation was making on the land to receive the spring crops, and bearing in mind the immediate necessity of employing the people in this manner, I have recommended to all the Committees to invite the landlords or their representatives, to a conference with them "for the purpose of devising the best practical means of inducing the small farmers and labourers to the immediate preparation of the land for the spring crops." Once in possession of these several opinions, I shall be enabled to lay before you a digest of the whole, from which some plan of immediate execution may be formed or recommended by the Government.

5. I have been credibly informed from various quarters that the class of small farmers, holders of from 15 to 30 acres of land, have *acquired both money and seed* amply sufficient for their holdings but these men are doing absolutely nothing, *under the impression that the Government will eventually prepare their land and give them seed for it, rather than see it overgrown*. This opinion pervades most classes but particularly the one above-mentioned, and it is worthy of note that this class (generally speaking), has not contributed one shilling to the Relief funds, but have dismissed the one or two farm servants they usually kept, and in not a few instances, have got their sons on the Public Works to the exclusion of the wholly destitute workman.

6. I am happy to report that the Committees are at last fully convinced of the efficacy of soup kitchens, and are exerting themselves for their immediate establishment. Many are in full operation, the soup, nutritious and cheap, varying in cost from three to four pence per gallon; a quart of which is fully adequate to support life of a non-labouring person for 24 hours. I have strongly recommended the appointment of Sub-Committees to superintend these kitchens in localities distant from the usual place of meeting; the General Committee retaining the control of the funds, but allotting to such localities a portion of the Government donation, equal in amount to the private subscription raised for that particular locality. Thus leaving the local management to the Sub-Committee, with the consent and approbation of the general body, and without complicating the accounts of your department.

7. There is little apprehension entertained of a scarcity of food prevailing to any extent in this county, as it possesses several large mills, doing extensive business and exporting grain of all description to a considerable amount. The Messrs. Goodbody's of Clara, Messrs. Dugdale of the same town, Messrs. Armstrong of Banagher, and Robinsons of Parsonstown, have all assured me of their ability to keep up the supply, not only for this, but the surrounding counties. The home-growth of this county is well-nigh consumed, but the markets continue to be well supplied and the prices maintain a downward tendency.

8. I have received every attention and much useful information from the Inspecting Officers under the Board of Works, Major Bennett and Lieutenant Hamilton; with the latter I have been in daily communication since my arrival. His indefatigable energy and exertions have produced the most beneficial results, and, in my opinion, he fully merits the high estimation in which he is held by all the Relief Committees.

9. Various complaints have been made to me by the Relief Committees, of the conduct and uncoöperative bearing of the county engineers, towards them as a body. I have recommended such complaints to be forwarded to the Board of Works, through the Inspecting Officer, but I beg to observe that much inconvenience must necessarily arise if the conduct of these gentlemen be not placed under the control of some local authority. It is impossible for the Board of Works to enter into these petty quarrels, nor can they exercise a wholesome control from Dublin, hence the necessity of some controlling power on the spot, to settle these frivolous disputes at once; some of the Committees have threatened to resign their office, a step much to be

Remarks by Sir R. Roath.

This is a valuable report, and I advise evidence that Captain Haymes will be prepared at once to organize the Union Electoral Committee.

The Irish landlord is generally most to blame, and not the actual owners of the soil, against whom all complaint is usually directed.

Feb. 26, 1847.

deplored at this moment, but I trust the new arrangement will include a more perfect organisation than that which now exists, and thus remove all further cause of complaint.

10. In conclusion, I beg to impress strongly on your mind, that *all the Relief Committees have been, and still continue, to act under pressure and intimidation, which leads me to believe that, until they are made legal bodies, and thereby responsible for all their acts, we cannot anticipate any sensible amelioration in their proceedings; the moment is fast approaching by the cessation of the Public Works, that this intimidation will lead the Committees into irretrievable mistakes, and I apprehend the clamour and menaces of the unemployed will much augment the abuses already too numerous.*

Captain DENT to Sir R. ROOTH.

Loughford, February 10, 1847.

I beg to forward the accompanying resolutions, passed in the Relief Committees at Loughford and Carrigallen, and which have followed me through the County Leitrim, as they principally contain suggestions on points, now, I believe, occupying the consideration of the Government.

With reference to the state of the clothing of those men employed on the roads, and the dreadful state of the bedding of those who have any, I regret to say it is not overdrawn, and I have suggested to the Committees the necessity of making applications to the several charitable funds that supply clothing.

With reference to the establishment of a food and seed depot for South Leitrim, I have already given you my views on the subject, particularly as to the most eligible situation.

And in respect to the suggestions of the Loughford Committee, No. 1, 25th January last, that the staff of the Commissariat Depot should be employed in giving gratuitous relief to those requiring it on certain days, my idea is that they find full occupation in the daily routine of their ordinary duties without undertaking that of the Committees.

Remarks by Sir R. Rooth.

Captain Dent might usefully inform the Committee that it is not within the range of his duty as pointed out by his instructions, to put forward suggestions which Committees may desire Government to consider, but that it is of course open to them to address the Secretary of the Government for the purpose of drawing attention to their views.

If Relief Committee Funds be appropriated to purchase bedding, clothing would then be claimed, but neither objects are embraced by the instructions.

The farmers who are doing as little for the country might be reasonably expected to supply straw for bedding.

February 20, 1847.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE CARRIGALLEN RELIEF COMMITTEE to Captain DENT, Inspecting Officer, which the Committee consider would tend to alleviate the present melancholy destitution of the country.

That the Government be most strongly urged that a depot of provisions be established at Ballinamore, as the most central position in South Leitrim, and also for seed, as by the latter the small farmers would be greatly encouraged to till their land, being now deterred from doing so from the fact that they have been obliged to consume all their seed for food. And further, that the Government be urged to bear half the expense incurred for labouring the land, the other half being borne by the landlord or tenant, and that Captain Dent be requested to obtain the sanction of the Government to this latter suggestion, with as little delay as possible, so the time of sowing will very soon be past, and very little land is now prepared.

The Committee would also suggest that the Government be earnestly entreated to take into consideration the great want of clothing at present felt amongst the poor, many of the labourers on the Public Works being almost in a state of nudity, to which may be attributed the great prevalence of dysentery and fever now existing.

ACHESON O'BRIEN, Chairman.

Relief Committee Room, January 28th, 1847.

Relief Committee, January 22, 1847.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE LOUGHFORD RELIEF COMMITTEE to Captain DENT, Inspecting Officer, which the Committee consider would materially tend to alleviate the present melancholy destitution of the country.

1. The employment of all who are able and willing to work, at such rate of wages as will enable them to meet the high prices of provisions, such employment to extend to females as well as males.

2. That every encouragement should be given to the small farmers who are unable from want of means to commence tilling their land; that not only seed should be given to them, but that labourers should be employed to assist them, and themselves paid while tilling their own land.

3. That the Committee consider it would be more advantageous to their funds and to the poor of the locality, that where application is made for relief at the store, provisions be distributed in all cases at a few pence per stone under the retail price of the town, rather than gratuitous relief be given to any portion of a family, no matter how large the family may be, it being already arranged by the Committee that provisions should be given to each family only in proportion to the number it contains.

4. That as a considerable portion of the intended railroad from Mullingar to Loughford

passes through this locality, the Committee think it right to impress upon the Government the necessity of assisting the Directors of the Great Western Railway Company in commencing the line from Mullingar to this town, as it would employ a great number of labourers at the ground works, advantageously to themselves and the Company, and serve the rate-payers of the country, as the expense would not have to be repaid out of the rates.

5. That a well-regulated system of emigration for those who are willing to leave the country would serve materially to lessen the unfortunate condition of the people.

The above suggestions were approved of in Committee, 26th January, 1847.

The following Suggestion was resolved upon this day:—

1. That in order to carry out the views of the Government with respect to gratuitous relief, it would be desirable if Sir R. Routh could give directions to the staff, managing the depot in this town, to give on certain days of the week gratuitous relief to the persons contemplated by his circular read this day, the objects for which relief the Committee will undertake to find out, and recommend by tickets or otherwise as directed.

2. That besides the destitution arising from want of food in this locality, the people in these parishes are in a state of great wretchedness for want of clean and dry bedding; the Committee therefore beg to suggest that they may be allowed to appropriate a portion of their funds to provide straw to be distributed where required.

J. S. P. TRENUM, *Chairman.*

Assistant Commissary-General MILLIKEN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Galway, January 12, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (C. 1407), directing me to draw up a general report of the state of the district under my inspection.

1. The several Committees I have visited are constituted in strict accordance with the instructions for the formation of Relief Committees. In most districts very little money had been subscribed towards the funds to meet the wants of the coming season, until the proposed plan of soup-houses had been laid before them, but I am happy to say there is now every prospect of large sums being realised for that purpose only. As the subscription lists are still open, I have not been able to ascertain the different sums that resident and non-resident proprietors have contributed; the enclosed return will show the amounts subscribed at some of the places. The Galway Committee, and that of Corrofin, in the barony of Clare, are the only places where meal has been sold by the Committees; the former has stopped since they commenced the soup kitchen. There are several private individuals who purchase and sell meal at cost price. The price of meal has been so high as to be out of the reach of the labouring classes, who have large families, and only receiving from 8d. to 1s. a-day on the roads. The soup at 1d. per quart is much more sought after than the meal, and the labourer's pay spent in that manner goes twice as far as in any other sort of food; gratuitous issues are seldom made, and the Committees have come to the resolution of only giving them in cases of the most extreme destitution.

2. Loan funds have in no cases been established in the districts I have visited, and on my urging such a step, where they failed to raise money from other sources, they declared it impracticable in this county. In some of the baronies they have scarcely a resident landlord, and those that are non-residents, they cannot obtain assistance from, particularly in Dunmore, and several other places.

3. In preparing the lists of labourers on Relief Works great abuses have existed, and still exist, and in many districts it is very difficult to provide a remedy. The men in the first instance were put on the works without much inquiry as to their situation or means, whilst those who were really destitute were left out because they were either squatters or persons unable to pay church-rates. In the course of time these objects of charity have found means to make their situations known, and since the receipt of the circular of the 8th December last, the different Committees have shown a desire to scrutinize the lists, removing those who are not really objects of charity, and putting in their places the really destitute. Still there are numbers retained who have no claims, for the Poor Law Rating Lists are very imperfect, and not easily got sight of; and when we consider that the mass of the people belong to a church, the clergy of which depend entirely on the lower classes for their stipend, and the Public Works give these labourers the only chance of their earning cash, it is not to be wondered at that these

men with small farms should be continued under the recommendation of their clergymen, to insure them the means of paying their church-rates. Latterly the complaints of the really destitute have been attended to, from representations made, and lists of persons furnished, who were in good circumstances. This has had so far one good effect, that the poor make it their business to find out those who should not be employed on the works, and generally bring evidence to prove their assertions. In one day, of the Scrutiny Committee at Galway, 102 persons were struck off on two roads, and a like number of paupers were substituted for them.

4. In this county there is a great deficiency of food to support the people until the next harvest. Even for the rich every article is exorbitantly high and difficult to be obtained. There is a want of enterprise and capital in the persons who are engaged in mercantile pursuits. They have imported grain to a limited extent, and realised an immense profit, and they now seem afraid to follow it up. At this moment there is not a month's supply of grain and bread stuffs in Galway, not including what belongs to Government; and in the neighbourhood they have not enough of oats for the spring crops, as this is a district more for wheat than any other grain. In Connemara a considerable quantity of wheat and bere has been sown; in the baronies of Athlery, Clare, Donmore, Kilconnel, Clannamowan, Dunkillins, Longford, and Loughrea, a great deal of wheat is sown, and a good deal of the land prepared for spring crops. The barn yards are moderately supplied with stacks of grain, but not sufficient for food. This being a great locality for the supply of pork, they have been obliged to dispose of the greater part for the want of oats to fatten them. There appears no want of cattle, although the prices are high. The weather has been much against the fisheries, and very few herrings have been caught; this has caused great distress amongst them, and brought many of the Cliddagh fishermen to beg for food, not a very common occurrence. A soup-house has been established for them, and when the weather moderates I hope they will be able to follow their vocations again. It is a great pity that some of the Torbay fishermen were not sent round here to teach them the use of the trawl, for the coast abounds with turbot, soles, &c., and they do not take the bait freely. In some of the baronies the Committee have adopted a method of getting the land cultivated by the poor, who rent a few acres, but are really objects of distress, and eligible for the Public Works; they oblige them to prepare the ground before their names are put on the lists, and afterwards make them return to put in the seed; when they have finished they are again put on the roads.* About Longford, and in the neighbourhood of Ballinasloe, this has been successfully carried out, and the persons employed most carefully selected by Major Ainslie, 53rd Regiment, Inspecting Officer of the Board of Works, the most indefatigable officer I have met on this service, and who gives every satisfaction to all classes he is in communication with.

5. The exports of grain from Galway have been very limited, and some cargoes that were sent to Liverpool were returned, as they could not realise a price equal to this market; in previous years exports were very great; from the failure of the potato crop, the consumption of wheat, oats, &c., must have increased to a great extent, still nothing in proportion to what the exports were formerly. It is supposed by a number of persons that a heavy stock of grain is laid up in sacks, and put away in the stores and barns, for there is nothing in the stacks or farm-yards to bear out this supposition; but from the average crop of last year, and scarcely any having been sent out of the country, it must be somewhere; a good deal has been brought to this market during the last few days, and did not sell so readily as might be expected.

6. Task-work latterly has been a general practice, although the mode of measuring is still very defective.

Females are often employed on the Public Works in filling wheelbarrows and other light work, for in many places there is no other employment, and these are many destitute widows and orphans that have no other means of gaining a livelihood. The funds of the different Committees being expended, there were no means left to employ them in spinning, except in a few cases

[c. 2.]

Remarks by Sir R. Bouch.

The great herring fishery on the north-west and west coast of Ireland occurs in mid-winter. The same kind of herrings (large curing herrings) are taken on the north-coast of Scotland at mid-summer. This is the real cause of success in the latter and failure in the former. There is a summer herring fishery of great extent on the east coast of Ireland, but the demands of Liverpool and other markets make the price too high for current. There is an autumn fishery on the west coast but it is uncertain, and the herrings are small and soft.

The use of the trawl is well known to the Galway fishermen, but most strenuously opposed, as there is no doubt that its use within headlands, is very injurious to the main fisheries, by dispersing shoals, &c. There is no art in trawling; it is nothing but dragging, by means of a rope from the stern of a wherry, a large bag-net, with an iron bar on one side of the opening which keeps it on the bottom, and this bag being dragged along the fishing ground (as oysters are taken) catches all the fish in its course on the bottom only.

The place where soles and turbot abound near Galway is Gregory's Sound, at the mouth of the bay, about 30 miles from Galway.

* This excellent arrangement was commenced by the Earl of Clancarty's Relief Committee at Ballinasloe.

Supplies of Assae corn are still in the country.

Large from Galway, Limerick, and other parts of the Irish western district, goes largely into English trade.

My informant, who was on the fishery inquiry in 1835-6, states to me he found that nearly all the children of a public school in Galway, conducted by nuns, were employed in working lace

where charitable individuals have applied their own funds to this purpose. A good deal of lace is manufactured in this country: in the small town of Headford there are several hundred persons engaged in it; from want of a market it is bought by pedlars at a very low rate, and carried to other parts of the country at a very low price, that one would scarcely think paid for the material it was made of. Were some system established of having a depository for the manufactures of the country, such as lace, woollen cloth, and stockings—the latter are made in Connemara, both good and cheap, men's socks of the best wool at 6d. per pair, the person receiving an advance on them put in cash and part in material—it might stimulate the people to industrious habits, and open a new trade in the country.

7. The workhouses are nearly all full, with the exception of Tuam, where there has been a great deal of trouble to keep it open, as they have neither furniture nor funds to make the inmates comfortable. At Galway and Ballinasloe they have seldom a vacancy, and of late it has been much the same all over the country, and the guardians have done all in their power to provide accommodation for the poor and feeble, but there has been so much distress of late, that these establishments have been nearly half filled with sick.

Remarks by Sir R. Routh.

on a contract with a house in Nottingham, and the most gratefully referred to the generous conduct of the English merchants in advancing the price allowed to the children as the lace work improved.

General marts or depositories inevitably fail. On a small scale such contrivances do for fancy works, and in *charities*, supported by donations, of course the depositories can be sustained.

As soon as the condition of the labouring classes in Ireland is casual, so that clothing and other requisites can be purchased by them, trade will soon open depositories enough for manufactures.

It has been estimated by an English commercial traveller in Ireland, that all the woollens made in this country would not cover the buttons on the coats made of imported cloth.

February 26, 1847.

Commander STUART to Sir R. ROUTH.

Turbert, February 20, 1847.

I HAVE visited the towns as per margin since the 9th inst., and beg to submit the following remarks:—

The Relief Committee in Killarney is working without the aid of Government, but promised me to arrange for co-operating. The workhouse here is in most excellent order, its inmates very healthy, and though overcrowded, it does not appear so.

The Relief Committee is working with the Government; but its operations and staff are expensive. Its supplies regular, both from Limerick and Liverpool. It sends its corn to Limerick to be ground, having no mill-power sufficient; one water-mill, five miles distant, grinds only a few tons daily.

The Relief Committee is working with Government. This place is in a bad way at present; its supplies are very irregular, as the prevailing winds, N.W. and S.W., are against both Cork and Limerick; and Tralee is 30 miles distant; horse-power very bad, and the roads very heavy. They have now only two days' provisions in the town, and some localities depending on Dingle have no food, so I suggested to Mr. Hill, in charge of the depot, to issue 40 tons. I took upon me this responsibility, to put a stop to sheep and cow-stealing, which the people are resorting to for food, especially as I knew the "Commodore," bound to Dingle, was detained by bad weather in Kenmare. She has over 100 tons of bread-stuff from the British Association. Here they are getting up water-mills.

The Relief Committee is working with Government, but exceedingly given to political discussions. It is well supplied through Turbert, distant 12 miles.

The workhouse lately built is in very bad order. It was made to contain 7000; at present it has over 11,000, who have a very sickly appearance.

I urged the necessity of soup depôts.

The Relief Committee of Turbert is the best managed I have seen throughout Kerry; but at present they are greatly embarrassed by 600 men being discharged from the Public Works. They are supplied from Limerick.

Kerry generally consists of brown reclaimable bog land and blue mountains. If the people were set about draining, I may say with truth, it would feed twenty times its present inhabitants.

In a few localities they are draining; but the population is on new works or roads, and actually the public roads require repair, and are not in some places passable.

Horse-power is fast lessening. I counted seven dead horses on the road-side, between Tralee and Dingle.

Mill-power is much wanting; and I especially drew the attention of all concerned to this point, as henceforth it will be in requisition.

Drainage, for this year, cannot be attended to; tillage now must be seriously looked to. It has scarcely been thought of; but March is the usual time for beginning.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 4, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, in which you transmit to me, by command of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from the British Relief Association, dated 26th ultimo, with their Lordships' Minute thereon of the same date, and containing your directions to me to report on these matters for their Lordships' information.

Killarney, 10th February. 1 soup depot; 10,000 inhabitants.

Tralee, 13th February. 2 soup depôts; 20,000 inhabitants.

Dingle, 15th February. 4000 inhabitants.

Scarcely any food in store.

Open Government depot.

Sheep stealing, 25 killed while I was in Dingle.

Limerick, 19th February. 6000 inhabitants; no soup depot.

Turbert, 20th February. Two small soup depôts; 18,000 inhabitants around the country and depending on Turbert.

Summary.

No drinking.

Houses all dying.

No mill power.

Tillage to be seriously looked to.

I beg to submit to you my opinion that it will be more convenient to this department to issue from our own stores on the requisitions of the Association, rather than to receive cargoes of supplies and store them on their account.

There can be no comparison between these two systems, for the first will enable us to maintain our own accustomed order and regularity without, as I hope, any increased establishment to our depôts; whereas the latter entails a heavy additional accountability upon officers already charged with as much as they can perform, and obliges us to keep two sets of accounts at the same station. Therefore, if it meets their Lordships' approval, I beg to recommend, in the future arrangements of the Association, that they should not consign cargoes to our stations on the west coast, but give orders addressed to me on our depôts to such reasonable extent as may be required; for it is natural to infer, that where we are making daily issues large additional means will be less necessary.

With regard to the north, east, and south coasts of Ireland, to which the Association are already directing large supplies, it would be desirable that my Lords (after learning the intentions of the Association, and the ports at which they have no agent, and require an agency to be established) should, in the absence of a Commissariat, send a certain number of captain's clerks or pursers to be stationed at these ports.

The expense of these naval appointments, and the storage of the supplies, will be defrayed by the Government.

I am prepared to furnish to these gentlemen concise forms of account, and some short plain instructions for their guidance, and to receive and forward to the Association every week a statement of these supplies, and an account of each depôt at the close of each month.

But in undertaking this duty, I shall require one or two additional clerks at head-quarters; and they must be persons having local knowledge, and familiar with the country districts, on which point I shall take leave to address you by Saturday's post.

THEATRE MINUTE ON the above.

March 6, 1847.

Write to the Committee of the British Association for the Relief of the extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland, and state that their Lordships having fully communicated with Sir R. Routh on the subject of the assistance to be afforded to the Association in Ireland, have been pleased to make the following arrangements, which, if they are approved of by the Association, may be considered as final.

1. That the Association should not have separate depôts at places at which the Government has depôts; but should, in respect to all such places, give orders on the Government depôts, for the provisions they require.
2. That Sir R. Routh be regularly advised of these orders, so that he may be aware of the extent of the demands upon the depôts, and may make such arrangements as the occasion may require.
3. That the provisions issued from the Government depôts, in compliance with the orders of the Association, be paid for in money at the current prices charged at each depôt.
4. That in order to carry this arrangement out at the earliest practicable date, the stores of provisions belonging to the Association, at places where the Government has depôts, be transferred to those depôts, and be paid for by the Government at the current price.
5. That upon applications being received from the Association, officers will be appointed on the part of the Government to take charge of cargoes of provisions sent by the Association to places at which the Government has not depôts; and the provisions sent to these places will either be sold, on account of the Association, at the current prices of the nearest large marts, or will be issued in compliance with the orders of the Association, of which orders Sir R. Routh should be advised, for the reasons above stated.
6. Weekly and monthly statements and accounts will be forwarded to the Association, relating to the stores of provisions so taken charge of for them.
7. The provisions sent by the Association to any part of Ireland will, as heretofore, be sent in Government vessels, or in vessels hired by the Association at the expense of the Government; and in every case in which provisions be-

longing to the Association are taken charge of by the Government, the pay of the officers employed, and every other expense, will be defrayed by the Government.

8. A statement will be forwarded to the Association as soon as possible after the first of each month, of all pecuniary claims upon them on the part of the Government, and a similar statement will be laid before the Treasury of the claims of the Association upon the Government, in order that there may be a prompt adjustment of every pecuniary transaction.

A copy of the letter last received on this subject from Sir R. Routh is to be sent with this letter for the information of the Association.

Transmit to Sir Routh, for his information, copy of the letter above directed to be written to the Committee of the Association.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 4, 1847.

I BELIEVE there is a great deal of grain seed concealed in the country; all our reports tend to this fact. Even potatoes are beginning to show themselves, and not in small quantities. They are much more plentiful in the Dublin markets now than they were last October.

Colonel White, of the 7th Hussars, whose father has a large property on the borders of Sligo and Fermanagh, and who has been travelling in that direction, stated that he was sure the destitution was much less than was represented, that he had taken the trouble to examine many of the reported cases of starvation, and that he had traced them home, and found them entirely false, and in several instances a fabrication of names, no such persons being known in the locality.

There is a strong inclination to emigrate, and the people half starve themselves to hoard up a sum to pay the voyage. Several hundred pounds were found on the persons of the paupers who sought refuge in Liverpool.

Mr. Dobree is making his best exertions to meet your wishes as promptly as possible.

I am very desirous to know if you propose to extend the issue of the old barrack bedding and clothing to any other purpose besides the workhouses.

It appears to me that they might be more extensively appropriated, and with great public advantage. Half the country is naked.

The instructions for the Inspecting Officers are completed, and progress is making, of which I shall advise you more in a day or two.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

March 6, 1847.

THE "Centaur" is being loaded at Portsmouth with about 200 tons of barley meal and biscuit, in addition to 40 tons of barley meal, and the same quantity of seed barley sent by the Marquis of Lansdowne to Cahirciveen.

She will proceed direct to Cahirciveen, and I shall be obliged to you to intimate your wishes to the commander of the vessel at that port, as to his further progress.

We have received advices in reply to the orders which have been sent to Holland for seed, and it appears that very little can be procured from that country.

We have received about 4500 lbs. of white beetroot seed from Belgium and France, and 1500 lbs. more are expected.

No white carrot seed has yet arrived from abroad, but we are endeavouring to get as much as possible, and we have now extended our order to red carrot seed.

The prices of all kinds of seed have much risen in the English market, and our future purchases will be confined to what we can get from abroad.

It is of the highest consequence that you should adhere to the plan of requiring cash payments for the seed.

After the Union workhouses have been supplied from the army and navy bedding and clothing, the remainder may be distributed for general charitable purposes, in such manner as the Relief commission and the Lord Lieutenant may approve.

MR. HEWAT TO MR. TREVELYAN.

*Provincial Bank of Ireland, London Office,
42, Old Broad-street, City,
March 8, 1847.*

I HAVE been instructed by the Directors of the Provincial Bank to send you the enclosed extract from a letter received this morning from one of the confidential officers of this establishment, who has just been sent down to take charge of the bank's branch at Skibbereen, in consequence of the illness from fever of Mr. Clerke, the bank's manager in that town. It exhibits the first impressions of a person going there as a stranger, and the statements are of a most distressing description.

It is sent for your information; but you are at perfect liberty to make such use of the communication as you shall consider to be proper.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER, dated SKIBBEREEN, March 4, 1847.

I ARRIVED here last night, and am happy to inform you that Mr. Clerke has had a change for the better; one of his medical attendants informed me to-day that, unless some unforeseen alteration takes place in him, he considers him out of danger, but that his illness has been so severe, that it is likely to be at least two months before he will be sufficiently recovered to resume duty.

This place is in a deplorable state; there is scarcely a house in the town that has not fever in it; the sub-inspector of police, who lives next door to the bank, is very bad to-day; some of the family of Dr. Donnan, a respectable medical man here, are also very ill; the wife of the Rev. Mr. Webb is despaired of; the manager of the National Bank was taken ill yesterday; the people of the hotel where I am staying have their children laid up; and, in short, the whole town and neighbourhood is in a lamentable state, resulting from famine and pestilence. The deaths in the workhouse and town average at the present 25 per day; the majority of the bodies are buried without coffins, by a party hired for that purpose, at so much per head; and I am informed that the graves in several cases are but partially covered. At the moment that I write the bank door is surrounded by a crowd of starving creatures, craving assistance, and having all the appearance of disease. We are obliged to employ a person to stand at the door during business hours, to prevent their filing up the office; and one cannot walk through the street without being besieged by them. I assure you the scenes of misery that meet the eye on every side are most distressing; this very day two persons were found dying in the public streets. It is quite impossible that any description of the state of the place can come up to the sad reality of its condition.

MR. TREVELYAN TO MR. HEWAT.

March 1, 1847.

I HAVE been applied to by more than one person to suggest some convenient means by which small sums, intended for charitable purposes connected with the present distressing state of Ireland, may be remitted to the parties who are to be entrusted with the appropriation of them in that country; and it has occurred to me that the Provincial Bank would, in order to assist in so good a cause, issue an advertisement, offering to receive at its office in London sums intended to be remitted for such purposes, and to pay them at par at the nearest branch bank in Ireland to the parties in whose favour the remittances are made; and as the persons who would avail themselves of this assistance are mostly ladies and clergymen and other persons not conversant with business, the notice should be of the plainest description, and should give the direction of the office in London, and a list of the towns in Ireland in which your branch banks are established.

Whether the Directors think proper to act upon this suggestion or not, I hope they will excuse me for making it.

MR. HEWAT TO MR. TREVELYAN.

*Provincial Bank of Ireland;
London Office, 42, Old Broad Street, City, March 4, 1846.*

I HAVE received and submitted to the Directors your letter of 1st instant, and have been directed to thank you for your suggestion, and to inform

you that, in accordance therewith, a short advertisement will be inserted in some of the London papers, giving notice that letters of credit payable on demand, and free of the usual charge, are at present granted at this office on all the branches of the Bank in Ireland for any sums remitted for the relief of the distress now existing in that country. I have had the advertisement also printed as a hand-bill, with a list of the branches annexed to it; and I send herewith 50 copies of it, and can furnish you with a further supply in case you shall find them of use in giving to parties who have money to remit, or in sending to persons who make inquiry at the Treasury on the subject.

I beg to add that, for a considerable time past, the Directors have not made any charge for exchange on sums remitted to Ireland for charitable purposes, and I find that the amount so sent through this office, within the last six months, somewhat exceeds 20,000*l*.

ENCLOSURE.

*Provincial Bank of Ireland, 42, Old Broad Street, City,
London, March 3, 1847.*

THE Directors of the Provincial Bank of Ireland hereby give notice, that letters of credit, payable on demand, and free of the usual charge, are at present granted at this office, on all the branches of the Bank in Ireland, for any sums remitted for the relief of the distress now existing in that country.

By order of the Court,
THOMAS HEWAT, *Secretary*.

The Provincial Bank of Ireland has branches at the following places:—

<i>Dublin</i>	
Armagh	Enniskillen
Atlixone	Fernoy
Ballina	Galway
Ballycanna	Kilkenny
Ballyshannon	Kilrush
Banbridge	Limerick
Bandon	Londonderry
Belfast	Mallow
Carru	Monaghan
Cloomed	Newry
Coleswine	Omagh
Cootehill	Parsonstown
Cork	Skibberson
Dowpatrick	Sligo
Drogheda	Scrane
Dundalk	Trillick
Dungannon	Youghal
Dungarvon	Waterford
Ennis	Wexford
Enniscorthy	

Mr. TREVELYAN to Deputy Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP.

March 1, 1847.

I HAVE seen a copy of an official letter from you, in which you allude to the beseeching lamentations of a crowd of persons in front of your office.

Pray write to me, giving me a description of the remarkable state of things which appears to exist at Belmullet.

You might divide it under the following heads:—

1st. The present state and prospects of the people at Belmullet, and in its neighbourhood.

2nd. The nature of the proceedings of the Relief Committee; and

3rd. The nature of your own proceedings, showing the assistance given through you to the people, and the routine of one day's work as a specimen.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Beloeillet, March 5, 1847.

I HAVE had the pleasure to receive your communication of the 1st instant, which, coming on a Committee day, and a day of issue, precluded my answering it at the moment.

The state of the barony of Erris at this moment is probably the most critical that can well be conceived, and its future prospects are of the blackest and most melancholy character.

There is no food in the country except what emanates from the Government store. There are no importations; no private enterprise; and the whole population of this district (about 30,000) have nothing to look to but the supplies in the dépôt under my charge.

I am therefore literally feeding the people, and this may be considered the assistance afforded through me to the population.

At the same time, unless I were to use discretion in the issue from my store, such is the enormous demand for food, that it would be utterly impossible for the Government to keep the dépôt supplied.

The population for 15 miles round has been fed, from the 11th January, *solely* from the Government store; but there are many, and very many, who are not only unable to purchase from the Government store, but have no resources whatever; no work and no money; and it was to these poor miserable creatures with starvation fearfully depicted on their countenance, and of which their unnatural and emaciated appearance gave painful evidence of the truth, that I alluded in my official letter.

Many of these are supported to a certain extent by two soup kitchens, but these are inadequate to give *total* maintenance to the numerous families in the district, labouring under *absolute want*.

Food given through the medium of soup kitchens affords immense *present* relief to the starving, and is calculated to be of the most beneficial future tendency.

There is no seed in the country; and, though the season for sowing oats, barley, and other seeds has begun, or nearly so, yet the small landholders in the barony are making no preparations for putting down any seed, or in any way providing for the cultivation of their lands. The landholders appear to have no seed of their own, nor the means of purchasing any, if seed were in the country.

The very few resident gentry in the country almost universally labour under heavy pecuniary difficulties, and are compelled to drive and harass their miserable tenantry. It would, indeed, be well if the landed proprietors could be enforced into the necessity of purchasing or giving seed to their distressed tenantry; for, unless some measures are taken for the supply of seed to the people, the lands will be wasted, and the famine of 1846 and 1847 exceeded by that of 1848.

The position of this part of the country is alarming; destitution has now become extreme and general, and mortality very great.

There are but few resident gentry or men of any influence to advise or assist the people, and in the management of distributing the food, or undertaking the arrangements for the supply of food, the Committee have neither willingness to act, nor the means of acting.

They were useful in placing men upon the roads, but anything of practical utility appeared wholly disregarded; and I fear the road system has brought the people to look up to Government for aid in every emergency, to neglect all preparation for sowing or planting their ground, and, in fact, has weaned them from all self-dependence.

It was in the absence of all assistance afforded by the Committee that the duty devolved upon me of supplying the people, but in doing so, I acted in such a way as to cause as little rush upon the store as possible.

While, therefore, the Committee had no funds to purchase of me in bulk, and no funds to pay retailers for their trouble, and thus allow the people to purchase from these retailers at the price at which the Committee bought from the Government store, I could only suggest to the Committee to appoint persons of character in the village to retail, and allow them to sell at something beyond the cost price as remuneration for their trouble.

This met the wants of those within four or five miles of the *dépôt*, who were only enabled to purchase in small quantities, such as stones or half stones; but it became necessary to meet the demands of those who lived far in the country, from 15 to 20 miles from the *dépôt*, persons chiefly on the roads.

These people subscribed 10, 12, or 20 together, and sent one or two to purchase a sack or two sacks, according to the number of subscribers, *direct* from the *dépôt*.

To meet this arrangement, to prevent huckstering in the country at exorbitant prices, without any check upon the proceedings of the hucksters, I could only recommend that lists should be drawn up by the people subscribing, whose names should be therein inserted, as also the locality in which they resided, signed by either the Sub-Inspector of Police, or by some member of the Committee; these gentlemen satisfying themselves that the supply required was for the personal use of the subscribers, and not for undue huckstering; while I am, at the same time, of opinion, that huckstering in the *town* is useful and necessary, provided the prices can be regulated.

There being no sub-*dépôts* in the barony, a large concourse of people is necessarily brought into the town on the days of issue; and, though nothing under a sack leaves the Government store, in the absence of all assistance from the Committee, except what I have before described, much weight devolves upon this office.

I trust the above may satisfactorily reply to your letter, and that I may not have entered into too much unnecessary detail.

Mr. GREENE to Deputy Assistant Commissary-General BISHOP.

Belmullet, March 5, 1847.

It is quite unnecessary to call your notice to the alarming condition of this little town, and the extensive district about it. I feel that it is still less necessary to stimulate you to exertion; for though having arduous duties of your own to perform, you have always given your ready and valuable assistance to the Relief Committee here.

I hope, however, that you will excuse me if I take the liberty to suggest to you that it might be useful if you were to advise the Committee to forward a statement to Government of the condition of this county, which has now become truly alarming. It is very possible that Government have never been made aware of the peculiar disadvantages and difficulties of this place. You know that the whole population for fifteen miles round have been fed *solely* from your store; there has not been, nor will there be, one pound of provision brought here by a merchant. There are no resident gentry or men of any influence to advise or assist the people. Your stores are now empty; so is the whole town. I could not get one stone of meal for my family this morning. I hope you will not consider it presumption in me if I remark, that perhaps the Relief Committee with which you are acting do not give enough of their time and attention to the procuring of food, and the proper distribution of it when it is in the country. You see yourself how alarming our position is,—destitution has now become extreme and general, and mortality very great.

Captain WILLIAMS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

"Odin," Belmullet, March 6, 1847.

We arrived here yesterday, and not an hour before we were wanted; there was not a *single pound* of meal in the place to be got for love or money; in the stores of the Commissariat there were only peas, and in the stores of the Relief Committee, only about 15 tons of rice. Had a gale kept us away for a week, the consequences would have been awful. The cargo we have brought will only last about three weeks, so that it is absolutely necessary that 500 tons more should be shipped *immediately* for Belmullet. The peas should be sent ground into meal, as the poor people cannot cook them whole. The Relief Committee appear to me to work badly; things here are *very* bad; the principal landlord, Mr. Bingham, a bankrupt, and flying from his creditors!!

Something must be done about cultivating the land, or the people will be worse next year. Medical aid is much wanted; men of skill, intelligence and humanity. Ireland wants MEN more than measures.

MR. WARD to MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 6, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that there is in store at Deptford a quantity of salt meat (about 179 tierces and 1,843 barrels of beef and 66 tierces and 968 barrels of pork), which was cured in the seasons of 1842, 1843, 1844, and has been returned from Haulbowline, after having been in depot in Ireland for military service; which may, if required, be placed at the disposal of their Lordships for the Relief service.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 9, 1847.

Transmit copy of this letter to Sir R. Routh, and state that my Lords will be prepared to direct that the salt meat therein referred to may be transferred to the custody of officers under his orders, for the purpose of being gratuitously distributed in relief in the most distressed districts in Ireland, on being apprized of the port or ports to which it may be considered advisable that it should be consigned.

Sir R. Routh will accordingly lay the matter before the Relief Commissioners, and will report to this Board their opinion thereon, in communication with the Lord Lieutenant.

MESSRS. WRENCH to MR. TREVELYAN.

MESSRS. JACOB WRENCH and Sons present their compliments to Mr. Trevelyan, and would feel particularly obliged to him to inform them if the rumour is correct, that Her Majesty's Government have already provided the requisite quantity of seed, especially seed for green crops, intended for Ireland; as the information whether the purchase has been made or not, will make a material alteration in the value of their stock, and that of their brother seed merchants.

Messrs. Wrench's friend, Mr. Edward Lawford, of Drapers' Hall, has already applied to the Board of Trade for them, but has been referred for an answer to Her Majesty's Treasury; and they (Messrs. Wrench) trust that Mr. Trevelyan will do them the favour to give them a reply.

London Bridge, March 8, 1847.

MR. TREVELYAN to MESSRS. WRENCH.

MR. TREVELYAN presents his compliments to Messrs. Jacob Wrench and Sons, and begs to state, in reply to their inquiry, that no further purchases of seed will be made on account of the Government in the English market.

Treasury, March 9, 1847.

REV. T. MATHEW to MR. TREVELYAN.

Cork, March 4, 1847.

THE mill has reached me safely, and is an excellent machine for grinding. It is much superior to the hand-mills sold here by the iron-founders. I thank you for your great kindness in granting it to me. I intend to confine it to the grinding of wheat, as I am convinced that Indian corn whole, is better for the people, especially as our millers and retailers do not separate the husk from the flour.

The whole Indian corn boiled separately and added to the soup, proves very grateful to the poor, even without soup.

To encourage our Soup Committees to give gratuitous food to be consumed

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on the premises, now that our workhouses is closed against admissions, I have presumed to give to them the three boilers, you so considerably presented to me. Mr. Bishop has promised to give a very fine copper cooking apparatus, with which I expect to be able to rival M. Soyer. My great anxiety is, to teach our unhappy simple people, to manage to advantage their scanty means. The potato deluge, I may so term it, during the last 20 years, swept away all other food from amongst our cottagers, and sunk in oblivion their knowledge of cookery. They are now beginning to awake from their apathy, and to form Joint-Stock Companies, for the importation of bread stuffs from England and the States of America, and to purchase with avidity printed instructions on cottage economy.

Last week I travelled to Limerick, and returned yesterday, and you will be gratified to hear that in all directions the plough is at work, and oats, barley and potatoes, are being sown in large quantities. If the very destitute cannot plant potatoes, others from pecuniary considerations are cultivating large fields of them, in the hope of realizing high prices early in summer. I am full of hope, and rely with unbounded confidence on the mercy of God. We are in his Almighty hands, and not in the hands of men. He will in due season reward with abundance, the resignation to his Divine will, of the most patient and religious people on the face of the earth.

Captain FISHBOURNE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Ennis, March 6, 1847.

ALLOW me to draw your attention to the importance of discontinuing the task-work system, which, if again re-adopted, should be so in a modified form. At present it is one entire system of abuse; thus in "breaking of stones," the stones are frequently measured several times. I have myself, when coming home at night, seen them stealing broken stones to have measured as broken by themselves. The consequence of this is, that men are receiving sometimes 1*l.* 4*s.* per week; I say receiving, for it is quite impossible that they could *earn* that amount by such kind of labour. The effect of these high wages, as might be expected, is, that no farmer can get labourers. Mr. Stackpole, a Deputy Lieutenant of the county, who is in the habit of employing 50 men at this season of the year, is tilling his land as he best can with girls; one family here obtained 4*l.* 10*s.* in the week, and it is most difficult to prevent such. The gardens round Ennis are nearly all neglected, indeed, there is less done near this town than in any part of the county. If the task-work were discontinued, and the men given the wages they now receive as subsistence money, the works would be relieved of a great pressure, the expense would be immensely reduced, many would go and till for themselves and others, and I do not think the distress would be increased, while again, the transition from the Labour Rate Act to the new Act would be less violent.

The high wages under the task system has had this further effect; a short time since the drainage of the Fergus was commenced, and 3*d.* was given for the cutting a measure and accepted, but the second day they turned out and demanded 5*d.* I understand that 4½*d.* was acceded to; if so, the effect will be most mischievous, as it will make draining so expensive that no person will undertake it on their estates. If 3*d.* were not enough, it should not have been offered, if enough, no more should have been given.

The difficulties encountered are incalculable. I may mention a fact, part of which I mentioned when I last wrote, which will serve to show the unreasonableness, or wickedness which is abroad. Mr. Thomas Mahon, owner of some property near Quin, in this county, being told by his tenants that they had no seed, purchased 800 stone of seed wheat, with the intention of giving it to them; but doubting their integrity of purpose, he had it steeped in a solution of the sulphate of iron, and then announced that they might have it, but they finding that they could not eat it, would not take a grain. He then asked them to let him have the land and he would sow it and give them the balance, after deducting the expense of seed and sowing; they refused this also. Mr. Mahon is a man of the most undoubted integrity, so they never could have doubted for a moment the honesty of his professions. I am convinced that they have the seed, and that they will eventually sow the land

themselves, or that they have entered into a combination not to sow; this I am told has been done in this county, in the barony of Corcomroe.

Many of the people are emigrating; if this spirit could be in the least fostered, I think much good would arise; they would attach much importance even to a seeming advantage.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 8, 1847.

THE seed arrangements are going on just as you wish and have recommended.

I have news of the arrival of the "Odin" at last, at Belmullet, where they were reduced to their last ton, and the people will not try anything new; they will not purchase either peas or rice, while they can get Indian corn meal. I do not know what they will say to the barley meal, but real want is a master that conquers all these fancies. I am glad to find the barley meal is succeeding in the Limerick district.

Captain Knox goes to Waterford, and Captain Lapidge to Wexford, superintending between them, as their duties press, the depot of New Ross. Mr. J. P. Forster I wish to send to Belturbet. Mr. Edwin Forster is at Dungarvan, where he has a cargo. We have also a cargo from the Association, at each of the three other posts.

Mr. Lister is here on his way to Newry, and Portadown and Belfast, and we shall be ready any day next week, to receive and forward supplies to Belturbet and Enniskillen.

Mr. O'Connor goes to-night to Sligo, and will set Mr. Osborne free for Enniskillen.

We want a captain's clerk for Limerick, to allow of Mr. Ingis moving about to set the contracts in motion, and to make arrangements where we have no contracts, and Mr. J. P. Forster might do as well for that post as Belturbet, but we want one at each.

To-morrow we open the contracts. I am told we shall have few contracts for bread.

In case of need, could you supply us with whole wheaten meal.

I shall take care of any clothing that comes from Guernsey.

With regard to seed, we are, I think, going on rightly, and the Lord Lieutenant seems decided to keep to the plan of selling our present and future seeds that you may send, for cash. I have procured a man to weigh out and sell the seed, to be paid, while we require his services, at 5s. per diem. Nobody liked the idea of its being given to a tradesman, for fear of adulteration.

Where we want rice, is at—

Galway,

Sligo,

Killibegs,

Ballina,

Westport,

Dublin, for Banagher, Athlone and Longford,

therefore, you can supply them as a convenient opportunity offers. It will be most acceptable at each.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 6, 1847.

WE shall try M. Soyer's plan next week, but we have some difficulty in finding a convenient *locale*.

Mr. Lister goes to Belfast on several grounds, one to look after our new contracts, and the army service, as every thing is new, and we shall most probably have to supply some places without contract.

Have the goodness to tell me how I am to pay donations on the sums voted by the Association in certain cases where we are to give an equivalent, when the Commission are able to take up the whole of their business. This is not a case that applies to the provisions of the Act, and does not, I think, belong to them, but am I authorized to continue it?

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROOTH.

March 10, 1847.

It is intended that you should pay *on account of Government*, the freight of the shipments by the Association when sent by merchant vessels.

I do not quite understand your question about paying donations on the sums voted by the Association in certain cases where we are to give an equivalent. Our rule is to double the Committee's donations *in those cases in which we ask them to make the donations*, while in other cases it is entirely at our discretion to give anything or not. In other words, we proceed according to our established practice on all occasions, except when we either ask them to make a donation, or make it for them without asking them, under the limited discretion with which they have vested you, and then we must double their donation; but the matter is not now of much consequence, for while, on the one hand, the Association is withdrawing as fast as possible from the plan of money grants, on the other you will cease to make any donations as soon as the new Commission comes into operation.

It is very satisfactory and gratifying that the Lord Lieutenant keeps to the plan of selling our stock of seed for cash. A contrary course would throw us into the greatest embarrassment. The following circumstance will shew the nature of our position in this respect. Among many Scotch proprietors who have acted in a public-spirited liberal way in the present emergency, there is one who has particularly distinguished himself. This gentleman lately wrote to us, stating that his means were exhausted, that he was obliged to sell his unentailed property, and that unless the Government would lend him a sum of money to provide seed, his district would remain untitled, and the famine would be worse next year. It was impossible for us to comply with his request without bringing upon us the rest of the Highlands and Islands, and the whole of Ireland, and we therefore raised a private subscription to assist him, which already amounts to upwards of a thousand pounds.

I have sent Mr. Erichsen a list of the places to which you wish rice to be sent, and we will endeavour to send some by every opportunity. Our plan will be to send a proportion of rice and biscuit by every ship, which we shall be able to do as regards those which sail from London, and even from Portsmouth, but we may find it more difficult as regards Plymouth.

The large quantity of rice which India is furnishing, and the rich vein of rye which has been opened in Russia, are great blessings, but notwithstanding these partial alleviations, the indications of a decided European scarcity are multiplying every day.

Mr. Erichsen has been instructed to despatch another ship from the river laden with meal and biscuit for Belmullet. We have no Indian meal to send, and if they are really in want, they will eat, and soon learn to like the barley meal.

You will receive to day an official notification of Mr. J. P. Forster's appointment to our temporary establishment from the 1st instant. He is a Master in the Navy, a man of few words, but practical and exact.

Another captain's clerk, Mr. Hooper, is on his way to join you. Am I to understand that you want another besides him?

We could, *in case of need*, supply you with whole wheaten meal for the use of the troops, but as wheat is exported from Ireland to England, and the use of Irish wheat would not interfere with the food of the people, it is desirable that you should get what you want in Ireland.

It occurs to us that the prices charged at our depôts on the western coast might be too high for the Association's depôts on the eastern, which are nearer Liverpool and the other great marts, and if you agree with us, I shall be obliged to you to prepare a separate tariff of prices for these last-mentioned depôts. Even in the case of our own depôts, we do not charge the same price everywhere, but are guided by the circumstances of each place.

My understanding of the wish of the Association is, that the supplies in their depôts should be freely sold to the neighbouring Relief Committees at the prices fixed, and that besides this, the special orders of the Association, whether for grants or sales, should be complied with.

I send a specimen bundle of female clothing and a copy of a letter from Mr. Erichsen relating to it. Pray compare the quality of the articles and the

prices with those which are procured in Ireland for the Union workhouses, and let me know the result.

Mr. ENGLISH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

110, Fenchurch Street, March 3, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have enquired, in many places, about the cheapest and most suitable female clothing for the destitute of Ireland, and I do not find any quantity of such articles at low prices, fit for this purpose, ready in London.

Formerly a large stock was held for the supply of the West India markets for winter clothing of the female Negroes, but such has been given up since the emancipation, and it is very difficult to get any very cheap warm clothing, unless contracted for delivery in a few weeks.

I beg to wait upon you with a list of prices asked by one wholesale house, and which I think is moderate. The patterns of the various woollen articles of dress I send with this; they are numbered so as to correspond with the various articles named in the list of prices.

The parties offer to put a number of extra hands on, should a contract be entered into for some quantity for early delivery.

No. 1. Stuff Petticoats,	at	3s. 3d. each.
" 2. Flannel do.	at	2s. 10d. "
" 3. Materials for Cloaks, at		12s. 0d. "
" 4. Shift, ...	at	1s. 3d. "
" 5. Stockings, ...	at	1s. 0d. "

Mr. CANE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Committee Room, March 9, 1847.

I AM directed to transmit to you an extract from a letter addressed to the Association by the Lord Robert Clinton, their agent in the districts adjoining to Limerick, and to request that instructions be given to Commissary-General Hewetson to issue, upon the requisition of Lord Robert Clinton, such amount of provisions from time to time as he may demand, on account of this Association.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from Lord R. CLINTON's Letter.

Turbert, March 4, 1847.

I ARRIVED in Limerick on Tuesday evening, the 2nd, and went immediately to Commissary-General Hewetson, who informed me that he had received no instructions from Government to allow me to draw upon his depot at Limerick, so I have at present no provisions for Clare.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 9, 1847.

Transmit a copy of this letter and of its enclosure to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, and desire that he will instruct Commissary-General Hewetson to issue such quantities of provisions from the depôts under his charge as Lord Robert Clinton may apply for on behalf of the British Association, provided the quantities applied for are not so large as to interfere with other necessary demands upon the depôts.

The cost of the provisions issued on Lord R. Clinton's order will be included in the monthly statement to be made of sums due by the Association to Her Majesty's Government.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Association, for their information.

Captain HAMILTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 9, 1847.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a report, dated the 1st instant, from Commander Brown, of Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Geyser," on the state of Valentia, Dingle, Ventry, and Berehaven.

ENCLOSURE.

Commander Brown to Rear-Admiral Sir H. PIERCE.

H. M. Steamer-ship "Geyser,"

Valentia, March 1, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this morning been on shore at Valentia, and from information received from the Knight of Kerry, from Mr. Day, the Protestant clergyman, and from Dr. Welsh, the medical man of the place, as well as from my own observation, I find the condition of the lower orders far from being so bad as in the neighbourhood of Berhaven in Bantry Bay.

Their appearance is far less squalid and miserable.

The Relief Committee are very active, and seem to have organized an excellent system for the distribution of soup to the poor.

On the island of Valentia, three days of the week the soup is served out at the village of Valentia, and the other three it is served in the centre of the island, to all who come for it, at 1d. a-quart.

About 100 quarts a-day are also served out *gratis* at each place, to the very poorest. About eight tons of meal are thus distributed weekly.

The island is more healthy than most of the neighbouring districts, though dysentery and dropsy are prevalent; the greatest sufferers are the children.

The cause seems to be, not so much from the absence of proper food, as from the improper and unwholesome method of cooking the meal supplied.

I was not enabled to form any opinion of the condition of the people, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the village of Valentia.

The working of blue slate-quarries by an English company gives employment to a great many able-bodied men, and many more are employed quarrying stone, and working it up for building a quay on Valentia Island.

In the vicinity of Dingle, on the opposite side of the bay, the distress appears to be much more severe.

Mr. Hussey, the treasurer of the Relief Committee, informed me that the Committee was quite out of supplies when the "Geyser" arrived, having been obliged to obtain meal from the Government stores.

The quantity of meal issued weekly by the Committee was about 75 tons, which was not enough to meet the demand of this large and destitute district.

Comparatively speaking, the inhabitants of the town of Dingle were well off, being supported by their fishery; about 30 boats being constantly employed (one boat I saw had with 130 black pollock in her, which sold in Dingle at 5d. a-fish). But Mr. Hussey informed me that the distress in the neighbourhood of Dingle was dreadful, mostly among the very small farmers; and the district between Brandon Head and Dunmore Head was most hopeless, owing principally to the absence of resident gentlemen and men of property; the small holders (tenants) of a few acres of land being left to their own miserable resources.

At Ventry, and in the immediate neighbourhood, the deaths within the last three months had been about 320.

Immediately around Dingle, though the mortality was not on the increase, yet the people were becoming so reckless, and so familiarised with death, that an open coffin, or bier, was made use of, in which they carried the corpses to the burying ground, and shot them into a large hole, or grave, dug for that purpose, which they filled frequently so full that hardly six inches of soil covered the uppermost bodies.

Mr. Hussey also told me that there was no disposition among the people to cultivate or sow the land, and that to emigrate was the anxious wish of all who could scrape together money enough to pay for their passage from their native country. The energies of the people are entirely prostrated, and they seem to be content (as long as it costs them no trouble) to watch the turn of events, quite reckless of what may become of them, expecting no change for the better. Vaguely hoping for some relief to their distress, but not seeing how that hope can be realized, they look for death, as the only alleviation to their miseries.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 8, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Weekly Return of the Commissariat Dépôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations and of the sums subscribed up to the 6th instant.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS, &c., in the several Depôts in IRELAND, showing the Issues during that period, and the Remains on Saturday, the 5th of March, 1947.

Depôts.	In Quarters of Eight Bushels each.						In Sacks of Eight Bushels each.						Remarks.									
	Indian Corn.			Sacks of Wheat, 168 lbs. each.			Certs. of Sub.			Indian Corn Meal.				Wheat Meal.			Barley Meal.			Oatmeal.	Hops of Branch of 112 lbs. each.	
	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.		Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.	Issues.	Remains.		Issues.	Remains.
Lanemak . . .	..	817	..	..	..	164	..	..	..	..	6,958	..	..	97	122	4	583	..	..	357	In transit : (52 qrs. of Indian corn.	
Clare Castle . . .	..	93	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	396	..	..	48	219	..	64	..	..	..	..	
Kilrush . . .	..	125	..	..	..	711	..	..	..	..	1,439	..	..	279	227	..	71	..	..	1,204	..	
Melrose, Tarbert . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	705	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	
Dingle . . .	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	801	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	302	..	
Cahirciveen . . .	..	78	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	
Castletown . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	350	..	..	113	787	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Shall . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257	..	..	20	340	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Stobberon . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	..	..	30	277	..	..	..	..	90	187	
Galway . . .	53	5,284	6	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	178	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cong . . .	..	615	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	963	6,617	..	34	3,856	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Children . . .	..	..	..	..	..	4	363	..	..	..	416	284	12	..	126	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Westport . . .	..	3,015	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	505	272	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	To Clare Island : (80 sacks Indian meal.	
Belmullet . . .	..	..	..	..	..	204	..	..	..	..	338	..	5	183	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Degart . . .	8	174	..	..	..	8	96	..	..	..	193	103	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sligo . . .	..	5,874	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,291	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	In transit : (443 qrs. of Indian corn. (992 sacks " meal.	
Ballina . . .	..	751	..	..	..	161	..	..	..	..	184	1,019	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Killybegs . . .	23	107	..	..	..	568	..	..	..	..	152	1,530	..	..	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Burtonport . . .	..	286	..	..	..	44	..	..	..	..	194	1,916	116	390	..	147	..	..	..	8	..	
Dunfonghy . . .	9	304	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186	954	128	66	..	..	..	..	..	38	..	
Balling . . .	..	146	..	..	..	75	..	..	..	..	..	100	192	169	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	
Dublin . . .	..	849	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,457	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	700	In transit : (2046 sacks barley meal.	
Bongaber . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Longford . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56	33	..	147	16	1,769	..	..	..	..	..	
Strathmore . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	98	..	..	204	1,062	15	173	10	..	..	
Caherea . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	33	63	40	..	..	1	..	
Roscommon . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	39	73	..	..	..	40	..	
Carriek-on-Shamrock . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	38	34	..	..	..	8	..	
In transit . . .	..	295	..	..	..	413	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	85	15	..	..	..	..	
Totals . . .	93	18,157	6	306	4	2,038	8	96	453	1,130	4,336	30,136	453	1,130	956	14,966	34	1,845	207	3,793	..	

RECAPITULATION OF REMAINS ON the 6th of March, 1847.

18,157 quarters of Indian corn at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	5,631½	tons.
308 sacks of rice are equal to about	30	„
2,638 quarters of peas at 5 quarters per ton are equal to	527½	„
30,186 sacks of Indian corn meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	3,773½	„
1,120 sacks of wheaten meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	140	„
14,986 sacks of barley meal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	1,873½	„
1,265 sacks of oatmeal at 8 sacks per ton are equal to	158½	„
2,763 bags of linseed at 20 sacks per ton are equal to	139½	„
98 cwts. of salt at 20 sacks per ton are equal to	4½	„
Total Remains	10,278½	tons.

ISSUES DURING THE WEEK :-

93 quarters of Indian corn	18½	cwts.
6 bags of rice, about	½	„
4 quarters of peas	½	„
8 cwts. of salt	⅜	„
4,538 sacks of Indian meal	567½	„
453 sacks of wheaten meal	56½	„
956 sacks of barley meal	119½	„
34 sacks of oatmeal	4½	„
207 bags of linseed	10½	„
Total Issues	778½	tons.

*The Canal, Dublin, March 8, 1847.*R. J. ROUTH, *Commissary-General.*

DONATIONS authorized to be issued by his Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT in aid of
 SUBSCRIPTIONS raised by Relief Commissions in IRELAND, up to the 6th of March, 1847.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donation.			Subscription.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846.	Ennis district, county Clare	281	0	0	281	10	0
March 1.	Ballypore district, county Cork	36	0	0	36	0	0
March 2.	Lach district, county Tipperary	80	0	0	80	0	0
„	Dandrum district, county Dublin	149	0	0	149	0	0
March 3.	Hollymount district, county Down	44	0	0	44	0	0
„	Rathfarnham district, county Dublin	206	0	0	243	2	6
„	Ardkill district, county Kildare	109	0	0	102	0	0
„	Kilmore district, county Wexford	184	0	0	134	12	0
„	Kilbeary district, county Meath	282	0	0	282	10	0
„	Mullagh district, county Cavan	129	0	0	129	17	5
„	Clogh district, county Kilkenny	80	0	0	73	13	0
„	Castlecroft district, county Tyrone	98	0	0	98	1	0
„	Joehiquis district, county Clare	56	0	0	56	0	0
„	Diogle district, county Kerry	205	0	0	205	0	0
„	Inchdrought district, county Tipperary	87	0	0	87	0	0
„	Froemont district, county Cork	191	0	0	191	16	4
„	Corran district, county Sligo	30	0	0	30	8	0
„	Kilmaree district, county Donegal	60	0	0	60	0	0
„	Coverigra district, county Donegal	246	0	6	246	9	4
„	Clonelle district, county Fermanagh	56	0	0	56	0	0
„	Ballinasloe district, county Galway	159	0	0	166	10	6
„	Kilmore district, county Galway	100	0	0	105	7	0
„	Skrull district, county Mayo	95	0	0	95	0	0
„	Castichar district, county Mayo	683	0	0	683	2	4
„	Ballyshannon district, county Mayo	90	0	0	90	0	0
„	Rosheron district, county Kilkenny	358	0	0	358	1	6½
„	Castlewells district, county Down	140	0	0	159	19	6
„	Julianstown district, county Meath	91	0	0	91	2	6
„	Finglas district, county Dublin	28	0	0	28	2	6
„	Loughgall district, county Armagh	84	0	0	84	10	0
„	Upperwoods district, Queen's County	265	0	0	265	10	6
„	Tyrrellspass district, county Westmeath	50	0	0	50	0	0
„	Kiltrennell district, county Carlow	94	0	0	94	0	0
„	Cleonsere district, county Carlow	27	0	0	27	0	0
„	Ballynegget district, county Kilkenny	158	0	0	158	18	4
„	Holmpatrick district, county Dublin	39	0	0	39	6	6
„	Maryborough East district, Queen's County	425	0	0	425	4	10
„	Tully district, county Longford	44	0	0	44	16	0
„	Loughglynn district, county Roscommon	173	0	0	173	0	0
„	Dunbellogue district, county Cork	138	0	0	138	4	8
„	Upper Leary district, county Sligo	109	0	0	109	0	0

Donations, &c.—continued.

Date.	Name of Committee.	Donation.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
March 8	Malahide district, county Dublin	110	0	0	110	0	0
"	Clonsilla district, county Dublin	138	0	0	198	0	0
"	Warrenpoint district, county Down	173	0	0	173	10	2
"	Ballykeigh district, King's County	55*	0	0	..		
"	Lindawney district, county Kilkenny	60	0	0	60	4	6
"	Kilsallen district, county Kildare	92	0	0	92	2	6
"	Coolgreany district, county Wexford	103	0	0	103	19	6
"	Loughally district, county Armagh	165	0	0	165	9	2
"	Grange (O'Neill's) district, county Armagh	28	0	0	28	14	0
"	Bruff district, county Limerick	100	0	0	190	7	6
"	Abbeyfeale district, county Limerick	107	0	0	107	0	0
"	Dolls, &c. district, county Tipperary	43	0	0	43	0	0
"	Ballydehob district, county Cork	55	0	0	55	0	0
"	Ballycastle district, county Mayo	132	0	0	122	19	6
"	Dromed district, county Sligo	25	0	0	25	0	0
"	Clardy district, county Londonderry	300	0	0	300	0	0
March 5	Modbury district, county Tipperary	106	0	0	106	0	0
"	Thomastown district, county Kilkenny	150	0	0	150	0	0
"	Drumcree district, county Cavan	32	0	0	32	0	0
"	Limerick City district, county Limerick	1,048	0	0	1,048	2	6
March 6	Raheny district, county Dublin	106	0	0	106	10	0
"	Tullamore and Trimogue district, Queen's County	163	0	0	163	0	0
"	Bar district, county Tyrone	37	0	0	37	13	4
"	Shelmalier East district, county Wexford	280	0	0	291	7	9
"	Drumstown district, county Londonderry	189	0	0	189	13	6
"	Coolack district, county Dublin	89	0	0	89	0	0
"	Clontarf district, county Dublin	127	0	0	127	11	0
"	Ardee district, county Louth	324	0	0	324	15	6
"	Ballee district, county Down	73	0	0	73	0	0
"	Ballyjamesduff district, county Cavan	116	0	0	116	1	5
"	Mountugent district, county Cavan	58	0	0	58	10	0
"	Ashfield district, county Cavan	133	0	0	133	0	0
"	Drumshanon district, county Cavan	16	0	0	16	12	3
"	Lisnaffill district, county Armagh	118	0	0	118	2	0
"	Fethane district, King's County	60	0	0	64	18	3
"	Ballinacorney district, county Kildare	118	0	0	118	0	0
"	Newbridge district, county Kildare	191	0	0	191	6	0
"	Killes district, county Tipperary	58	0	0	58	15	0
"	Lillic district, county Cork	125	0	0	125	5	0
"	Uper Fahan district, county Donegal	92	0	0	92	3	0
"	Calduff district, county Donegal	150	0	0	188	9	6
"	Ballintober district, county Mayo	104	0	0	104	10	0
	Authorized during the week	11,909	0	0	12,008	30	104
	Previously authorised	92,995	16	0	109,105	16	104
	Total	104,904	16	0	112,114	7	9

The Castle, Dublin,
March 8, 1847.

R. J. RORTON, *Commissary-General.*

* Added to a former grant on 16th February.

Deputy Commissary-General LEBETSON to Mr TREVELYAN.

Malta, February 18, 1847.

I HAVE had the pleasure of receiving your letter, dated 11th ultimo, and beg to enclose a memorandum, which will show that there is in store here work for the steam mills for some time to come.

The ships appropriated to convey the meal that is ready packed, are daily expected.

ENCLOSURE.

MASTRA.—STATEMENT OF GRAIN for the Service in the United Kingdom, from the commencement until the present time.

Indian Corn.

	Sacks or Quarters.
Offets accepted	23,270
Received and delivered at Naval steam mill	8,942
Received and delivered into Commissariat storehouses, those of the Navy being full	3,583½
	12,445½
Remaining due to be received	10,824½

Memoandum.—Out of the quantity of 12,445½ in store, 664½ salms have been ground into meal and shipped for Ireland, as reported in my letter of 1st January, No. 166; and 1342 salms have been since ground into meal, producing 604,000 pounds, packed, and now ready for shipment; leaving 10,438½ salms unground, which, at the rate of 100 salms per day, is work for the steam mill for four months (Sundays excepted); this is exclusive of the 10,524½ salms remaining due on the offets accepted and in expectation, which will, when received, occupy the steam mill for another four months.

Barley.

	Sacks or Quarters.
Offets accepted from the commencement and delivered to the Naval and Commissariat steam mills	2,648

Memoandum.—Out of the above quantity of 2,648 salms, 265 salms have been ground into meal and shipped for Ireland, as reported in my letter of 1st January, No. 166; and 1186 salms have been since ground into meal, producing 332,080 pounds, packed and now ready for shipment, leaving 1197 salms unground.

Commissariat, Malta,
February 18, 1847.

D. IRISTON,
Deputy Commissary-General.

MR. BROMLEY to MR. TREVELYAN.

Relief Commission Office, Castle, Dublin,
March 10, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that many Government Inspectors have been appointed to different Unions under the Act of 10 Victoria, cap. 7; and that the Relief Commissioners recommend the following allowances for their Lordships' sanction, being the same as are granted to the Inspecting Officers hitherto acting under Sir Randolph Routh: viz.

1. 21s. per day.
2. 3s. do., lodging money.
3. actual travelling expenses.
4. 10s. per night, when necessarily absent from their station on duty.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 12, 1847.

Give authority accordingly.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. HALY.

Dublin Castle, March 10, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to state to you for the information of the Committee, that Assistant Commissary-General Lister is now stationed at Belfast, and I expect to hear from him, and to be able to communicate to you, the result of his endeavours to obtain a sufficient contract for freight on the Ulster canal, and this is a preliminary step, indispensable to the establishment of your proposed depot at Belturbet, and that of the Government at Enniskillen; the officer, however, intended for Belturbet will proceed there immediately, and I shall report to you his arrival.

Captain Mercer, R.N., is at Londonderry.

Captain Knox, R.N., is at Waterford, in charge of the cargo per "Rambler."

Captain Lapidge, R.N., is at Wexford, and

Mr. John T. Forster is at New Ross;

His brother, Mr. Edwin Forster, is at Dungarvan, but I hope Captain Knox, with a good storekeeper, will after a time be able to add New Ross to his own charge at Waterford, and leave one of the brothers disposable for another duty.

Mr. Saunders, R.N., is in charge at Athlone.

I have drawn up concise forms of account, and I enclose you one of each, with a copy of the instructions, for the information of the Committee.

Captain Whitmore called on me this morning, and stated that he was proceeding to Waterford, the south of Tipperary, and a part of Cork, but as he appeared to have his instructions direct from your Committee, I did not interfere.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, March 10, 1847.

MR. LISTER left this morning for Newry, Portadown, and Belfast. He is looking very ill, and I verily believe he would have fallen a victim if he had remained much longer at Westport. I was quite surprised at his appearance, but the change of air is already producing its effects. He had never complained. He will make all the necessary arrangements along the canal, of which I shall advise you in a day or two, and it was necessary he should stop a day at Newry to perform this duty. Your shipments for Euniskillen may now be made to Belfast, as soon as it meets your convenience.

I am very much afraid that the new biscuit is above the price the people can pay. It may be well worth the 23s., but the Committees cannot afford to give that sum. Cannot this price be reduced. I think the highest they can pay is 21s., but this is a sacrifice that may not be approved of.

We have just completed the revision of our tenders for the army contracts, and they are as follow for the several districts:—

For Cork, taking an average of all the offers, the price of the ration of bread and meat is 6d.

For Dublin, about 7½d.

„ Belfast, 5d. and ½ of 1d.

„ Limerick, not quite 7d.

„ Athlone, about 6½d.

We have twelve counties for which there is no offer for meat, but chiefly those where the detachments are small. I should say that the tenders include 24,000 of the 26,000 men. We had six counties wanting for bread, but have since received tenders for them, and we may succeed in like manner for the meat.

Where the prices are very high, they apply to small detachments.

I see the prices are falling at Liverpool, Indian corn 72s., and even 71s.

I have just completed my simple short forms of account for the officers who have charge of Association stores, and forwarded them to

Captain Mercer, Londonderry.

Captain Knox, Waterford.

Captain Lapidge, Wexford.

Mr. John T. Forster, New Ross.

Mr. Edwin Forster, Dungarvan.

I think Captain Knox will be able to undertake New Ross with the aid of a constable at New Ross, and relieve Mr. John Forster, who can go to Dungarvan, and let his younger brother go to Limerick, so as to give up a proportion of Mr. Inglis's time to military business. Mr. Hooper goes to Beltrubet.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

March 12, 1847.

COLONEL PERCEVAL's seed will be sent direct by the steam-packet from Liverpool to Sligo.

Mr. Erichsen has been requested to send a cargo of barley meal, biscuits, and rice to Belfast, for Farniskillen.

The objection to charging less than 23s. for the new Navy biscuit, is not the loss it will occasion to the public, but the danger of interfering with the trade by selling at less than cost price. It may, however, be considered that the danger is not great in this case, the article not being in the market for general use; and as it is a great object to get the biscuits into consumption, in order to give the people something substantial to eat with their soup, you are authorized to fix our selling price at 21s. per cwt. as recommended by you.

There is in store at Cork more biscuit than you require for your army purposes, and quite as much salt meat.

How far does the knowledge of this fact induce you to modify your requisition to have the quantities named in your official letter stored at the different stations?

If the Admiral could send it by steam at a short notice to the places on or near the coast at which it is required, would it not be better to keep it all together under Admiralty charge in the excellent storehouses at Cork?

Mr. J. ERICHSEN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Wellbeck Street, March 9, 1847.

THERE are two points in connexion with the food question, to which I wish briefly to direct your attention. The first is the relative nutritive value of different common articles of food; the second the kind of diet that should be furnished to the starving Irish.

It is necessarily the object of Relief Committees and other charitable associations that provide food during the present scarcity, to furnish such food as will afford the greatest amount of nutrition, at the smallest possible expense. Now, it does not follow that the lowest priced food is in the end the most economical, as it may contain proportionably less nutritive matter than a higher priced article of diet. Thus, for instance, it has been ascertained by Liebig, Boussingault, and others, that 107 parts of wheat are equal in nutritive power to 111 of rye, 117 of oats, 130 of barley, 138 of Indian corn, 177 of rice, 894 of potatoes, and 1335 of turnips.

Thus a quarter of wheat at 80s. should, according to their relative nutritive power, represent barley at 64s., and Indian corn at 62s. per quarter; and it would be as economical to buy the wheat at 80s. as the Indian corn at 62s. When we compare vegetable with animal matters, we shall find that the nutritive power of the animal food (I mean the cheaper sorts) exceeds that of the vegetable food in a greater ratio than the difference of price; thus, for instance, a pound of wheaten flour, and a pound of common Dutch cheese, are about the same in price, say 2d.; but the amount of nutritive material contained in the cheese, more particularly of that kind of nutritive matter that goes directly to the formation of blood, bone, and muscle, and that is especially essential to the maintenance of the physical powers of the body, has been ascertained to be at least sevenfold that which is contained in the wheat; and, although either the wheat or the cheese are, separately, highly nutritious, we shall find that the power of affording nourishment possessed by these substances will be greatly increased by their combination in proper proportions. This leads me to the second point; the necessity of variation in diet, or rather the combination of different alimentary substances for the preservation of health and life.

The body is made up of many principles, differing from one another in composition and chemical properties. Now we might, *a priori*, suppose that textures which are chemically different require different alimentary substances for their nourishment. The living body has no power to create any of these principles; it must, therefore, be supplied with food containing all the elements that enter into its composition; one of the most important of these elements is a principle called nitrogen, and this the cereals contain in very small quantities indeed; whilst on the other hand, the leguminous plants,

peas, beans, and the pulse tribe, together with all articles of diet derived from the animal kingdom, but especially cheese, contain it in very large quantities. Now, nitrogen is absolutely necessary to the proper nutrition of the body, and must be supplied in some shape, and in larger quantities than exist in the cereals, wheat, oats, barley rye, Indian corn, or in the potato. If the system has to depend solely upon the amount of nitrogenized matter that can be obtained from this kind of food, an immense mass must be taken into the stomach to provide the requisite supply of nitrogen to the system. An Irish labourer, though eating eight or nine pounds of potatoes daily, about the average quantity, barely obtains enough nitrogen for the nutrition of his system; this quantity of potatoes not containing more of that principle than, and being about equal in nutritive power to, three quarters of a pound of butcher's meat, or half a pound of cheese. I would, therefore, most strongly advise the Relief Committees, if they wish to do something more than fill the stomach of the people, to substitute for a portion of the cereal food a certain quantity of the leguminous food, and especially cheese. Instead of pure Indian corn, it would be better to furnish 10 ounces of the corn with three or four ounces of peas, or beans (the commonest horse-beans would be highly nutritious and wholesome), and one ounce of cheese. One pound of food of this kind would go as far as at least a pound and a half or two pounds of Indian corn, in the amount of nutrition it would supply to the body. In this way the consumption of cereal food might be much diminished, the supplies in the kingdom husbanded, and a greater amount of nutritive matter, and *pro tanto* of health and strength furnished to the people in the distressed districts, without any increase of expenditure.

That this combination of the nutritive principles contained in the cereals with those in the leguminous tribes, and in the animal kingdom is absolutely necessary, not merely for health and strength, but for life, is proved by the experience of all nations.

I have not time to adduce many examples, and it may not be necessary to do so, but I may refer you to the diet of the Hindoos; this consists as its basis, of rice, but in addition, clarified butter (ghee), peas or pulse are always added. In Norfolk and Suffolk, I find butcher's meat is never eaten by the peasantry, who live almost exclusively on wheaten bread and potatoes, but a pound of cheese is said to be the regular weekly supply for each family. In Dorsetshire and Devonshire, wheaten bread, potatoes, with a little cheese, butter or bacon; in Yorkshire and Northumberland, oatmeal porridge, bread made of barley and pea-meal mixed, potatoes, and cheese or bacon.

These facts afford sufficient evidence, that the poor in this country find that they cannot live without either cheese, butter, or peas, where they cannot afford meat. In Ireland, although the peasantry live almost exclusively on potatoes, which resemble very closely in their composition the cereals, a large quantity of butter milk is drunk, which contains a considerable amount of nitrogenized animal matter, and supplies that principle to the system. If a horse is fed solely on potatoes (the experiment has been made by Liebig), he increases neither in size nor strength, and sinks under every exertion.

The six dietaries that have been adopted by the Poor Law Commissioners, show the importance of the combination of alimentary principles that I have mentioned. In the lowest of these dietaries (in which no cooked meat is allowed) each man has weekly 112 oz. of bread, 32 oz. of suet or rice pudding, 16 oz. of meat pudding, and 18 oz. of cheese, the cheese here taking the place of meat. In the Marylebone workhouse, it is the custom to give the inmates pea-soup on one or two days of the week, which takes the place of meat. These instances will, I think, suffice to prove that in this country, where meat is not eaten, it has been found necessary to substitute peas or cheese; this is in strict accordance with our knowledge of the physiology of digestion, and the chemical composition of animal body.

The proportions I should recommend, are those I have above mentioned, viz., 10 oz. of corn, 3 or 4 oz. of peas or beans, and 1 oz. of cheese, or 1½ oz. of cheese to every pound of biscuit. This might constitute "a ration" and would probably be sufficient for the day, the cost of the cheese would, I think, be saved by the corresponding diminution in the quantity of corn served out, and even were there any little additional expense attendant upon it, this would be more than repaid by the great addition that would thus be communicated to the nutritive properties

of the diet, and consequently to the strength of the population. Depend upon it, people cannot exist without a sufficient supply of the principles contained in animal food, in some shape, though it be given in the form of cheese or butter milk, peas or beans.

I must now conclude, though I am much tempted to enlarge upon this very interesting, and to all, very important topic—how to afford the largest amount of nourishment at the smallest cost.

MR. WARD to MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 12, 1847.

I AM COMMANDED by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter addressed by the master of the "Mercury" tender, to Rear Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot, on the 8th instant, reporting a circumstance which he witnessed at Ballydehob.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. SCARLETT to SIR HUGH PROBY.

Cove of Cork, March 8, 1847.

AFTER discharging our cargoes in the boats at Ballydehob from the "Mercury" and "Gipsy," we went on shore, and in passing through the town we looked into the ruins of a house, and there were two women lying dead, and two all but dead lying along with them. When we inquired how it was that they did not bury them, a woman told us they did not know, that one of them had been dead five days. And as we were coming down to the boat, we told the boat's crew if they wanted to see a sight to go up the street, when they went, and there were four men with hand-barrows, and the men belonging to the boats helped to carry them to the burial-ground, where they dug two holes and put them in without coffins, or without any person to read the burial service over them.

MR. LOYD to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Committee Room, March 12, 1847.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform you, that Mr. Cummins and I have reported to the Committee, the purport of the explanation which we had with you yesterday morning, respecting the Treasury Minute of 6th instant, and the Committee have instructed me to say, that they fully adopt the regulations therein suggested for their future guidance, and will endeavour to make all their future proceedings conform thereto.

MR. LOYD to MR. TREVELYAN.

British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Committee Room, March 11, 1847.

THIS Association has now entered into liabilities to the full amount of the funds which the general subscription has placed at its disposal, and any further engagements into which it enters must, therefore, be made upon the faith of the money collected under the Queen's Letter. Under these circumstances, probably, Sir George Grey will not object to instruct the Bank of England to transfer a portion of that fund to the credit of this Association, to be drawn for by it as its further expenditure in purchases of food or otherwise may require. You will oblige me by taking the necessary steps for this purpose.

Is it to be understood that this Association is to transfer to the Scotch Committee one-sixth part of whatever portion of the Queen's Letter Fund is placed at our disposal, or do you undertake to make the proper appropriation to Scotland without our intervention?

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 12, 1847.

Write to the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank, and state that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, having communicated with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, request that the sum of 50,000*l.* may be held by them at the disposal of the British Association for the Relief of the Extreme Distress in Ireland and Scotland, out of the produce of the subscription for that purpose, in order that the above-mentioned sum may be drawn upon by the Association, either to defray expenditure incurred by them for the relief of the distress in Ireland, or to transfer to the Edinburgh Committee the proportion which has been appropriated to the same object in the distressed districts in Scotland.

Acquaint Mr. Jones Loyd, that my Lords have, for the present, directed the above transfer to be made.

STATEMENT of the AMOUNT of FOOD prepared for the Relief Service at the Royal Victualling Yards and Private Mills employed by Government, per Day, Week, and Month.

Note.—The number of pounds weight represents the number of Pounds that can be fed, and is in addition to the cargoes "for arrival," and the supplies of Rice, Peas, Beans, &c., purchased in the London and Liverpool markets. It is also in addition to large supplies of Biscuit and Salt Meat, which were on hand, and were transferred for the Relief Service.

Victualling Yards, &c. in England.	Daily.			Weekly.			Monthly.		
	<i>lbs. or Pecks.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>	<i>lbs. or Pecks.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>	<i>lbs. or Pecks.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>
Govt. Bakers, Biscuit Mills, Meal . .	51,392	23	115	359,744	160½	802½	1,341,760	626½	3,442½
	121,140	54	270	847,980	379½	1,892½	3,634,300	1,622½	8,112½
Total	172,532	77	385	1,207,724	539	2,695	5,175,960	2,311	11,555
Private Mills	32,609	14½	72½	224,909	100	560	960,600	438½	2,142½
Total	204,332	91½	457½	1,431,734	639	3,195	6,136,560	2,739½	13,697½
Admiralty Mills at Malta* .	61,660	27½	137½	431,620	192½	962½	1,849,800	836	4,330
Grand Total	265,992	119	595	1,863,344	831½	4,157½	7,985,760	3,565½	18,027½

* Orders have been sent to keep the Admiralty bakeries at Malta in constant employment, in the manufacture of biscuits for this service.

LONDON:

Printed by WILLIAM CLOWES and Sons, Stamford-street,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.